

Sendai Yuusha wa Inkyou Shitai [WN]

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Chapter 128: Free City Galarie

Just when was that story from.

With feelings that made them feel like tearing up their body in their chest, and their thoughts dyed with anger, something hot flooding out of their eyes.

That story that made one feel like their heart would break.

The words "I don't want this anymore" sighed over and over,

the words "Don't screw with me" were wailed over and over.

Fists struck the ground with the words "I don't believe this",

the words "Help me" were cried out while crawling on the ground.

"....."

Within the rain, there were two boys.

The therianthropic boy that looked like a young man and had an elegant countenance was stretched out on top of the mud, and the Human boy that still had some childishness left over on his face had his black hair wet from the rain and tears had amassed in those beautiful black eyes that looked like obsidian.

The childish boy slowly stood up.

"Unforgivable."

It was low, and it was said filled to the brim with hatred, enough to make those who heard it believe it was a curse.

"Absolutely.....unforgivable."

The childish boy looked up at the heavens, and glared at the sky.

"You're telling me to protect things like this....."

With a scoffing-sounding voice, he asked such to something.

"In order to protect something like that.....!"

A strongly clenched fist. His nails tore through the skin and blood was overflowing from it.

The self-injury that was done to conceal the heart-rending pain only intensified the childish boy's anguished expression.

Looking up at that boy, the therianthropic boy smiled.

".....Yuu, what, are you crying for.....?"

Blood flowed out from his body, and as in proportion to that, strength was leaving him.

Even though the wound was hot as if it were burning, his body steadily became cold.

"!?I ain't, crying....."

".....That, bratty part.....of you, is something that I hate."

The therianthropic boy made a small laugh at his personality that used abusive language in a scene like this.

"Even, I....."

"I, see.....In that case, this is perfect.This is an order from the senior apprentice."

"!"

The childish boy's body shook. Maybe he felt something from the therianthropic boy's words.

".....It is fine if you resent someone, or if you hurt someone. However, stop doing nothing.No matter how much you hate them, how much you resent them, whether you move forward, or move back.....is what you yourself.....—"

His temperature rapidly cooled down.

The therianthropic boy showed a smile at the figure of his junior apprentice whose face was disheveled and crying.

(Ahh,he was an irritating jerk but.....he was a good guy.)

That face, despite having lost his life, smiled in satisfaction.

"—.....Siriussssss!!"

Flames of hatred burned in the eyes of the childish boy.



"Uooooh! Is that Galarie? As expected of the Metropolis of Water, it's right in the middle of the ocean!"

It has been about two days since we departed the solitary island that owned a great labyrinth, Nordyord.

The city that we finally reached after getting involved with the pursuing Dragoon unit of some country somewhere had stretched out as if it were floating on top of the ocean.

Large buildings that looked like castles and an ellipse shaped arena, and many small boats floated on the large canals and were carrying people that seemed to be tourists.

"The Metropolis of Water.....Now I get it" It had an appearance that made me groan that.

"It seems to be called a city that took decades to build from an originally small island that only had a small village. That large estate there is right in the center of it, and it seems to be this town's feudal lord, Feudal Lord Zeke Oisast's estate."^[1]

Bernadette read out loud the text of a pamphlet that she took out.

What was reflected in those eyes probably wasn't only that vast stock of knowledge but also a report of recommended shops.

"『The Mercenary King』 Zeke Oisast, huh.....I wonder if he would have a match me?"

"Although there are rumors that he's a duel-maniac, that would be a bit unreasonable, don't ya think?"

Angelica replied with a wry smile to Kuon who was cheerful and making a delighted smile.

The Mercenary King, that is quite the strong second name. Well, since we probably won't meet with him anyhow, I guess there's nothing to worry about.

"Come on, men! Prepare to land!"

"OU!"

Turning the propellers downwards, the airship slowly started to descend.

"....."

This journey had started from Luxeria, but we'll be arriving in Galarie which I had made as the objective for the time being.

Together with my curiosity towards the town, I also thought about my future plans after this journey ends.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Name to be read in normal way, not Japanese way where it is read by syllables. Original: ズイーク・オイサースト

Chapter 129: The Preceding Hero's Inn Search ~ Failure Part~

Having arrived at the Free City of Galarie, we first searched for an inn to stay at but,

"Ehh!? This place also has no vacancies?"

Due to the fact that the main matches of the Martial Arts Tournament that was on a global scale was going to happen in a few days, all of the inns had no vacancies.

"Sorry 'bout that, the inns 'round this area have had no vacancies since three days ago, ya see"

"No way....."

Receiving the apologetic sounding apology from the inn's proprietress, I departed from the inn.

"How was it?Wait, I guess there's no need to ask that."

"She said that all of the inns around her are out."

After saying it out loud, it was an understandable reason. With such a large-scaled festival, there was no way tourists from around the world wouldn't

gather.

"I guess we took it a bit too lightly."

"How about we try relying on this area's church?"

I see, that's a good idea.....is what I would like to say, but personally, the church is a bit—.

There isn't anyone else as decent as God, but in my own opinion, I would like to decline things becoming troublesome at the church which is said to be the house of God.

"If worst comes to worst, we can just stay on the airship again."

"That's true.Well then, first off, we should have a meal."

"Uwah—, you're making a really delighted looking face. Well, I guess you'll enjoy it after easily putting it in your stomach."

Since it would be troubling if she were to overeat, I swore in my heart that we would go to a cheap store.

"Yashiro-aniki, I'm gonna go ahead of you and go to the territory estate."

"To the territory estate? Why would you do that?"

"The one managing the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration is Feudal Lord

Oisast. The victors of each district need to report to the reception at the territory estate."

For the Feudal Lord to be managing the Martial Arts Tournament.....No, well, there's not really anything to say.

"Well then, I guess we'll temporarily split up here. What should we do for the meeting place?"

No matter where you looked, the vicinity was filled with people. It would be best if it were a place that stood out as much as possible but.....

"Come to think of it, there was a water fountain on the road we just passed through. Should we go with that?"

"If it's that, I feel like it's a bit small....."

"Then....."

Kuon and Bernadette looked for things that looked like they could be a landmark, but none of them really hit it off with me. The other places were also filled with probable things.

".....Jeez, how about that Coliseum over there. Isn't that fine?"

"It's a bit far but.....Okay. If it's there, it doesn't feel like we'll lose our way."

What I pointed at was the gigantic Coliseum that seemed like it could accommodate half of the tourists that filled up this town of Galarie.

Both Kuon and Bernadette nodded at my proposal.

"Well then, see you later!"

Jumping up as soon as she said that, Kuon headed to the territory estate while hopping up and down on top of the buildings.

I understand that doing that was definitely faster than going through the crowds of people, but even if she didn't do such a conspicuous thing.....

Ah, I saw her underwear.

"Uwah, Kuon-san really is amazing."

"Yeah, to think that she would move like that despite wearing a mini-skirt and a fundoshi. Is it a thing where she's not embarrassed because it isn't panties?"

"Just what in the world are you talking about!"

"Eh? Weren't you talking about how amazing it was that she wasn't embarrassed after showing off her underwear?"

"I was not! I was talking about how amazing her jumping ability was!"

Bernadette glared at me while her face was red.Wh, what could it be. I'm

getting a thrill even though I'm being glared at.

"Tahaha.....W, well then, how about we randomly go around the eateries."

"What an obvious change of topic.....Well, that's fine. I'll slowly lecture you about this matter while eating a meal."

Bishi (forceful action). Bernadette pointed her finger at me.

It can't be helped. Since I am self-aware of how lacking in delicacy I am, I'll just resign myself and receive the lecture.

By no means was it because I was looking forward to Bernadette's lecturing now that she had gained a personality like that of an Onee-san who had just moved into the neighborhood.

Not that at all.

"Well, now that it's decided, let's decide a store! Quality or quantity, if we had to pick one, it definitely has to be quantity, right?"

Bernadette stuck her hand into the slit on her thigh and pulled out a pamphlet.

"Quality or quantity, huh.....Since it's mentioned in the pamphlet, the taste shouldn't be bad, so a vote for quantity."

"As expected of you, Yashiro-san, you really get it. As I thought, eating until a full stomach is what a meal is."

When I replied to her, Bernadette smile with a broad grin.

You really do love eating food, don't you.

"Now, let's go, Yashiro-san!"

"Wait, oi.....Well, whatever."

My left hand was caught—No, gripped by Bernadette and pulled.

Even though I was forcibly dragged along, when I tried to resist, I mistook that delighted-looking profile of hers as poison and stopped caring.

The pulling power on my hand lightly, but firmly gripped me.



".....Why are there.....so many people."

In the town of Galarie, a young lady walked while making a dignified expression that had a bit of a frown.

With every step forward that she made, her characteristic red hair swayed. Her red hair that was bundled together into two tufts followed her like the afterglow of tail lamps on a dark night.

Looking closely, her manner of walking was also wild, and one could perceive that she was irritated.

".....I've totally gotten separated from Kaito and the others!!"

The young lady continued to walk forward while having somewhat teary eyes.
To be frank, she was Akane of the Second Generation Hero Party.

The story was short.

Although she went to go sightseeing with Amagi Kaito and company, once she took a stroll, she strayed away from them before she knew it, and became lost just like that.

Normally, for better or for worse, she would usually take some kind of action, but since being all alone in an unknown land was disheartening, she became unable to have her usual thoughts.

Therefore, she was advancing forward for the time being while becoming teary eyed.

"To begin with, it's because that 『Witch of Time』 said that she wanted to come to this city that things went wrong! What~ do you mean ".....Something terrible will occur in that land. It cannot be left as is". Isn't not knowing what will happen despite being able to see the future totally a fatal flaw? Also, Kaito is also being a Kaito! Even though he knows that I have no sense of direction.....?!"

Her grumbling that seemed like it would continue on for eternity suddenly came to an abrupt stop.

With her eyes wide open in shock and her mouth hanging open, ahead of where she extended her trembling hand and pointed index finger was—,

"Wha, w-w-why are you here!!"

"Uoh, the f, frenzied pigtails!?"

"Who the heck are you calling frenzied!"

Holding hands with an awfully big breasted woman, the young boy that they had been summoned to this world together with and then had separated from right after that.....Yashiro Yuu had a surprised appearance just like Akane.

Chapter 130: The Preceding Hero and the Present Day Hero, Akane

I am technically a male high school student, you know.

They say that guys think of nothing but perverted things, but that's why it's at the time of being a high school student that the most erotic things are thought of.

I'm at an age where I could fly off and make a delusion of a foolish plan where I'd go on a date with Bernadette who had recently become docile and sometimes shows actions that makes my heart skip a beat, have a meal in a restaurant that has a good atmosphere, and then just like that get a Goal In to a hotel and watch the morning sun together.

And yet, and yet?

"Why you, I told you to wait right there, didn't I!!"

Why am I being chased by the ferocious Twintails of Kaito's party!?

"Ya, Yashiro-san!?"

Right now, I'm in the middle of escaping while carrying Bernadette with both arms. While pushing my way through the crowd of people, when I look over my shoulder, the Twintails had a look of anger.

It was probably my bad that I started to promptly escape but she doesn't have to get that mad, right?

"Sorry Bernadette, we'll talk later! Please endure it for now!"

"It's fine, I would like to stay like this forev Gyah!?"

Ah, she bit her tongue. At any rate, right now, I need to make sure that I don't get caught by that Twintail!

"Fu!"

Using the roof of a food cart as a stepping stool, I changed to using the roofs of private houses.

Fufufu, if I run seriously to the point where I don't even tread on the roof, even if she is in the cheat army.....

"You, despite not having any Maryoku, just why can you move like that!"

Uwah, in one breath, she jumped in on it.

Moreover, maybe because I showed jumping power that distanced myself from ordinary people, it went as far as giving her some misgivings.

"However, I can't allow myself to get caught. See ya later*tsuan*!"

Kicking off my footing with the essentials of Shukuchi, I ran with a speed that would leave sound behind.

It's a high-speed movement technique that where not even an angered Sylvia could even hope to touch me.

I've gotten punishments ever since Silvia became able to use Shukuchi, but I won't teach Twintails and the others Shukuchi.

I've won!

Thinking that, right before my eyes, the figure of a person appeared.

"As if I'd let you escape!!"

Geh, Twintails!!

This rascal. Forget following along with my speed, she went around me!

Not good, I've already lost in the spec that was my redeeming feature.

Dammit, even if she is strengthening her physical abilities, to be able to win against me, this girl is a monster!

"Go to sleep!!"

On top of all that, Twintails put Maryoku into her fist and came swinging with that.

Breaking through the speed of sound, the fist drew near while creating a sonic boom.

I kicked that and averted its trajectory.

"!?"

Twintails opened her eyes wide in surprise.

Seeing an opening, when I tried to pass through the side, this time a sharp kick skimmed close to my head.

Seeing several strands of my hair being cut off, I lightly shuddered.

"Why you little! I would have died just now if that had hit!"

"Why did you avoid that attack!"

Ah—, it somehow looks like Twintails eyes have gone into serious mode.

Would it have been correct of me to just gone with the route of normally talking with her without running?

"You, just what in the world are you.....I don't feel any Maryoku from you, but those movements, you don't seem like a normal human."

"It's a trade secret, I can't just keep it at that, can I?"

"Not a chance. Depending on the circumstances, I might have to beat you down."

Pulling out gauntlets out of somewhere, Twintails equipped them onto her arms. So she's finally armed herself.

"You, you haven't done something like lowered down a Mazoku, right?"

Twintails' fist was strongly clenched, and the light of Maryoku overflowed from that fist.

"Lowered down, to a Mazoku?"

".....Going by how you look, it seems that you haven't. I guess for now, that's a relief."

Though she made that sigh, Twintails took her stance. She's totally up for a fight.

"Advent.....Why is it that you know how to do that!?"

Bernadette, who I was holding in my arms, asked that while her voice was quivering.

Hearing that, Twintails' eyes became sharp.

"It would seem that she knows about it."

Twintails target shifted from me to Bernadette.

What, what, just what is going on?

"I'll beat the hell out of you to the point where you won't die, got it?"

"W, wait! Nowadays, violent heroines aren't all that well liked, you know!?"

"What kind of nonsense are you spouting out!!"

Twintails opened up her fist, and the converged Maryoku turned towards us.

So she plans on bombarding us with pure Maryoku at point-blank range!

That isn't a technique that is fine to let loose right in the middle of town, you know!!

"Im, pac—"

"There's no other way, Ravenbrandddd!!"

"So it's finally my turn!"

Holding Bernadette with one arm, I drew out and swung the Magic Sword that possessed intelligence.

"つ!"

Twintails was now in a state that looked like she was doing a banzai with one hand. A flash was fired from that hand and it created a pillar of light in the sky.

Twintails' face looked absentminded, and discovering that there was an opening this time for sure, I passed through the side and escaped.

"つ、—！ "

Twintails shouted out something, but it didn't reach me who ran while surpassing the speed of sound.

Like that, the reunion between me and Twintails ended.



Amagi Kaito was dashing through the town of Galarie. Not through the

crowds of people, but as if hopping on the roofs of the buildings.

"Calm down, Kaito! There's no way that someone as strong as Akane could be defeated!"

The young lady that was summoned together with him from Earth, Sakuya was hot on Kaito's heels.

"But, if something happened, it will be too late!!"

A little while ago, Kaito's group felt the Maryoku that was fierce like flames that Akane fired for the sake of battle.

To unleash her Maryoku and fight in the middle of town like this, it wasn't normal.

"It might be the something that Lililuri-san mentioned.....つ!"

What Kaito feared was that. The 『something』 that the 『Witch of Time』 had mentioned.

An event that not even she could obtain an understanding of, if Akane was confronted by that just now.....,

".....つ, Kaito, over there!"

"つ!? Akane!"

Reacting to Sakuya's voice, Kaito discovered Akane who was sitting down on top of a roof.

"....., Kaito?"

Akane raised her face to Kaito's voice. That face looked like she was dumbfounded by something.

"Akane, what happened!?"

"....."

When Kaito asked that, Akane turned her head towards the side.

"Hey Kaito.....That Yashiro guy, what is he."

Chapter 131: The Preceding Hero and the Fistfighter?

"Haa.....Haa.....Looks like I've lost her."

It's been about five minutes since I escaped from Twintails.

Having gone considerably far, I caught my breath in a back alleyway.

Maybe because I was impatient, my breathing was rough. It's been a while since I've tasted this washed-out feeling.

"You don't have any injuries, right?"

"Y, yes....."

I put down Bernadette, who I was carrying. Bernadette, seeming like she had something she was thinking about, made a response and sank into silence.

"Still, to think that I would meet with her again in a place like this.....Now that I think about it, I probably shouldn't have ran away."

This matter will probably be told to Kaito. Now that I've displayed movements that can't be cleared up as an art of self-defense, it's only natural to be looked at with eyes of suspicion.

Even though I ran away so that things would become troublesome, it feels like things became unnecessarily troublesome.

"Should I leave this town?No, it's not like I'm a criminal or anything."

There's no need for me to run away."

In the worst case, even if it can't be passed off as an art of self-defense, it'd be fine if they just overlook it. Though I probably won't be trusted absolutely.

Still.....What was that thing about lowering down to a Mazoku that Twintails said all about?

Did that have the meaning of employing Mazoku.....Ah, I have Paimon with me, don't I. Crap, did she see though that?

"....."

Come to think of it, Bernadette said something before, didn't she.If I remember correctly, it was Advent, right?

"Yashiro-san, I, now have some business to take care of at the church."

Having thought of something, Bernadette said that looking like she was going to raise her head.

The church.....She must be talking about the place of worship that is the Holy Ulquiorra Church that is said to have one existing in many cities.

".....Is it related to the thing that Twintails said earlier?"

".....For now, it's nothing. The contents are, something that I cannot talk about, not even conjectures."

So it's that, the so-called confidential matters and prohibited facts. In that case, it seems that unreasonably sticking my nose in would instead make things troublesome.

"Alright, I got it.Will you be able to make it to the rendezvous point?"

".....I think, it will be impossible."

"Roger that."

I lightly tapped Bernadette's shoulder, who made an apologetic-sounding apology, and then turned around.

"I don't know what it is but don't push yourself too hard, okay?If something happens, rely on me, got it?"

"Yashiro-san.....Yes, I understand!"

Bernadette's facial expression was filled with heat. It was like she had returned to the usual Bernadette.

"I'll be the one to tell Kuon. Well then, see ya."

"Yes, see you later."

As I said that while turning my back, Bernadette's words came in response. And then, in the next moment, Bernadette's figure disappeared from this

back alleyway together with tiny footsteps.



"Now then, with this, I've become alone but....."

I'm bored. Way too bored.

I was originally going to kill the time by try out the food at the various restaurants of Galarie together with Bernadette, but now that Bernadette is gone, I need to find something to do.

I guess I'll just eat for now.

"An eatery, an eatery.....Oh, I guess over there is fine."

When I came out from the back alleyway and walked for a bit, a restaurant that was thriving despite being past lunch time caught my eye.

""Welcome～!""

When I entered the store, the waitresses that were wearing frilly garments simultaneously raised their voices.

"Dear customer, it is currently a bit packed so we cannot prepare a seat for you. You can wait until a seat opens up but, is that alright?"

Maybe because her garments emphasized her chest, the waitress-san that

came running towards me had her chest bouncing and shaking.

"Of course. Even if the sun were to go down, I will wait right here."

"Well then, please wait for a little while!"

I was healed by her whole faced smile and her self-asserting, intense breasts.

Indeed, I am also a man after all—.

When I looked around the inside of the store while thinking such things,

"Become a woman of my great self.....If you do, I'll give you pleasure that you haven't tasted up until now, ya know?"

"Th, that's, dear customer.....You're troubling me."

There was the appearance of some guy putting his hand around the waist of a waitress girl.

.....Normally, this is where I would cut into the gap between them, give that bastard well-deserved punishment, and it become a scene where I become popular, but,

"Kuku, although you say that, you're enjoyin' this, aren't cha—....."

"Ahh, that's.....But"

"Your body sure is honest, isn't it?"

".....!"

Somehow, the female side didn't look like she was hating it all that much—. She's making an expression of ecstasy.

".....Nn? What're you lookin' at, you shitty brat, this ain't some show, got it—?"

"Then don't go doing R-18 stuff out in a public place—. What're you, a monkey?"

Having a fight sold to me by the redhead man, I reflexively returned with an immediate reply.

Dammit, even though I'm a single guy here, this guy goes and seduces a girl right in front of me.....!!

"Who's a mon—Nn? You....."

When the redhead, darkish skin-colored man took a careful look at me, he suddenly became silent.

Why did this guy suddenly.....Huh? This guy's face, where have I.....If I'm not mistaken, at the southern major power Valanshel—

"You're Yuu, aren't you!? It's been a long while, hasn't it, you jerk!!"

"Ahh! So it really is you, libsal!! It really has been a while!!"

It's one of my bad friends that I met three years ago when I visited Valanshel.

It was the fistfighter, libsal.

Chapter 132: Complication

"Jeez, what have ya been up to in these three years?"

libsal began to talk while grabbing the gigantic lump of ham from the top of plate that was laid out on the table.

libsal bit off some ham while making a *Buchibuchi* sound. What a hearty way of eating.

"Even if you asked me what I did....."

"Thinkin' that you'd immediately gain fame if it was a guy like you, I kept on waitin', ya know? And yet, there wasn't a single sign of you comin' out."

Gulping down the meat he held in his mouth with wine, libsal leaned back in his chair.

"Ah—, erm, I returned to my birthplace."

"Your birthplace, huh. Well, I guess there's no helpin' it. By the way, what did you come to this town for?"

When I replied with my reason, he simply accepted it and changed the topic. Suddenly changing the topic was very much like him.

"To spectate, just to spectate. I'm not participating, okay?"

"Dah—, so it's really like that. And here I thought I just might be able to fight you."

When I said that, Libsal drank up the wine that was in the glass, then caressed the ass of a waitress-san (the person that greeted me at the store entrance) that was nearby trying to pass by and demanded for another serving of wine.

.....This jerk, he did perverted actions so naturally. However, the waitress-san didn't dislike it, and in fact looked somehow delighted.....Dammit, is it because he's a pretty boy!

"Nn? Wait, then that means, Libsal, you.....Are you participating?"

"Correct. A written invitation from this place's Feudal Lord was delivered to me. Recently, the fistfighters that would have a bout with me have also become scarce. It said that strong guys would be comin' and so I'm participatin'."

As expected of the fight loving 《Battle Maniac》, that was a muscle-brained reason.

Still, will a guy that is able to fight evenly with Libsal show up?

Zephyr and Leonhart, they wouldn't have to go that far, but they would have to at least be strong enough to be able to fight against a Mazoku as an opponent.....。

"I know! Hey, Yuu, won't you try participating in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration?"

Libsal's eyes were sparkling as if to say 'Eureka!'. Sorry to say this but I have no intention of going.

"I'm not going out there. Rather, how could I even go at this point."

"Tomorrow, a preliminary contest is going to be held in this Galarie. If you win there, you'll appear in the real matches three days later. Hey, try going out there."

"Sorry but I'm not doing it. I don't really want to stand out that much."

All the more so now that I know that Kaito and the others are in this town.

"Keh, how boring. A—ah, if only I could at least go at it with Leezelion's Leonhart—."

Sounding displeased, Libsal bit off a piece of bread (something similar to the Indian food, nan). Libsal and Leonhart, huh.....That seems like it would turn out to be a fairly interesting match.

"Well, that's too bad. There is quite a distance between Leezelion and Galarie after all. It's physically impossible."

Though, since he's unexpectedly a battle lover, if Leonhart were in Galarie, he probably would have participated.

Thinking that, I held a mouthful of grape wine that was low in alcohol content in my mouth and,

"Ah? You don't know? Right now, Leezelion's Sylvia is here in this Galarie, you

know? The Imperial Guard Leonhart should be together with her, you know?"

"Bufuuーつ!?"

I vigorously spit it out.

"Uwah, that's dirty! What're you doin' all of a sudden!!"

libsal was angry from having grape wine completely spit out onto his face.

S, sorry, libsal. But, right now, I need to hear about that important and significant matter instead of that.

"S, say that one more time, libsal."

"Ah? I said that was dirty."

"I apologize for that. But, I meant before that."

"Before.....You mean about how Leezelion's Sylvia is in this town?"

Yeah, that. I can understand it if it's Kaito and Baba-chan and the others. But, why did Sylvia's group in this town!?

"What's this, what's this, Yuu, are you a fan of Sylvia's or something?"

"Eh? W, well, something like that."

When I made a halfhearted response to libsal who was grinning for some reason, libsal gathered up the remaining food that was on the table, tossed it into his mouth, and swallowed it after chewing a few times.

Uwah, incredible. In terms of eating with instant vigor, he was in no way inferior to Bernadette!

"Ussh, then let's get goin'."

Standing up from his seat, libsal said that.

"Ha?"

"Well, like I said, let's go to where Leezelion's Sylvia is."

Haa!?

"I've got a bit of a connection with them, ya see. I'll let you meet her, the Imperial Princess Sylvia-sama."

libsal made a thumbs up. That face was saying "I'll grant my friend's request" and was filled with a kind of feeling of satisfaction.

.....Though, this time, he's granting an unwelcome favor.



"Keep on searching! They shouldn't have gotten too far from the estate!"

"We need to find them before Feudal Lord-dono arrives.....♪"

In the vicinity of a certain building in the Free City of Galarie, full plated soldiers were searching for something with a solemn look.

There was the figure of a girl gazing at their state in a crowd of people that was a bit distance away.

"....."

Wearing a casquette cap (newsboy cap) low over her eyes, that girl that wrapped herself in a deep blue coat hid her eyes with the brim of her hat and slipped into the crowd.

"Sorry, Leo.However, if you lock me up for two days for no reason, it'll make me want to do this."

The girl breathed a small sigh while muttering a monologue.

"Besides, it's said that the present day Heroes are in this town right now.....I need to check on it myself."

She extended her hand to her coat pocket. Inside of the pocket, there was stationary.

".....An ashen little, that resembled Aneue.I need to check on that being."

Her emerald eyes, looked towards the sky.

Chapter 133: The Washed Away Preceding Hero

Donburako, donburako (splash, splash). The reason why those words are coming up in the corner of my mind is probably because I was swaying on a boat.

The Free City of Galarie is a town that was built as if it were floating on the sea's surface, and with waterways created throughout the city, it seems that traveling by small boats called gondolas was typical.

There were bridges that you could walk and cross over build above the waterways, but the number of bridges were few, and since there could be places with no bridge at all depending on the place, they were hard to use. This made travelling by small boats popular.

The boatman skillfully manipulated the long oar and the boat traveled down the waterway.

We were moving with quite some speed, but since the boat didn't shake all that much, it was pleasant.

"So, are we seriously going, libsal?"

"What the heck, you're not all that eager, are you, Yuu. Weren't you a fan?"

On the long and narrow boat, libsal and I were seated opposite of each other. With the town's scenery as the background, libsal was smiling with a grin.

"Rather than, a fan.....Actually, why is Sylvia...the imperial princess one of

your acquaintances? No matter how stupidly strong you are, I just don't see a point of interaction between you two."

"It wasn't anything significant. We did stand on the same battlefield after all.....Well, don't worry about that part."

Damn, I guess it's useless to try and change the subject.....At this rate, he'll know that I'm acquainted with Sylvia, and suspicion would be placed on me for being acquainted with the imperial princess of a whole country.....No, since it's Libsal, I guess that won't happen.

Rather, I feel like it wouldn't become that big of a deal even if I were to tell Libsal that I was the Hero.

"Well, whatever will be will be."

No matter how it turns out, if it's Libsal, then there's no problem. I made up my mind.

When I thought that, the townscape completely changed to the scenery of a surrounded waterway.

"Oh?I see, so this is the main street."

That large waterway that had a width of several dozens of meters had various large and small gondolas going back and forth.

Among them, there were even gondolas with street vendors riding and doing business.

"It is called 『The Large Waterway Gale』, and is a so-called main street. When you go straight down this waterway, you'll finally arrive at Feudal Lord-sama's estate which is at the center of this town."

The boatman-onii-san explained as if he were waiting for this moment.

Looking on, it was considerably far, but I could see a large mansion. So that is the Feudal Lord's house.

"That is the 『Mercenary King』's....."

"Mercenary King?"

libsal muttered feeling deeply emotive. When I asked about that, he smiled with a grin.

"Ahh, this town's Feudal Lord, Zeke Oisast's—"

And then, just as libsal was about to start talking, the gondola greatly shook.

"Uoh!? Wh, what's going on!?"

A small shadow of a person appeared in front of us who had promptly clung onto the gondola.

"Heheh, sorry about that, Nii-chan."

Looking at him, it was a child with the appearance of a bad brat.

"Marco! You, again—"

"Yeah, yeah, I'm getting out here already!"

The gondola's boatman shouted at him, but the brat frivolously laughed, jumped on a nearby gondola and left.

From the gondola that he jumped on, he went to the next gondola, and after doing that several times, the brat called Marco arrived at the land that was close to the waterway.

"Sorry about that, dear customers. He's a brat called Marco and....."

"Ah—, well, it's alright. Besides, with him being around that age, it's just him being mischievous is all."

Even for me, when I was around that age, I did some pretty rash things.

Things like flipping skirts or rubbing the trainee female teacher's chest.

"Still, he is quite the nimble brat, isn't he."

Ibsal laughed, sounding amused. He wasn't an opponent to fight, but it seems that Ibsal liked things like that.

"If he were trained, he seems like he'd turn in to a good fist fighter."

So that's how it is.

"Well, to regroup oursel.....Nn?"

Having clung on so as to not fall off from the gondola, when I fixed my sitting position, my level of comfort was bad, or rather, I felt a weird sense that something was lacking.

"What is this, something is.....Ahhh!!"

And then, suddenly, I put my hand into my pocket, and then I finally realized the disaster.

"? What's wrong, Yuu?"

"Gone, it's gone! It isn't here!!"

Neither in my pocket, my breast pocket, nor my back pocket, it's not here!

"My wallet is gone!!"

My wallet that I should have put in my pants pocket is, not nowhere to be found!

"What?Did I drop it, well, I guess that can't be the case, right?"

"If you dropped it, we would have noticed by the sound even with the

congestion. Did you leave it in the store from earlier?"

"I was the one that took care of the bill."

"In that case.....was it taken?"

If I didn't leave it behind somewhere, it had to have been stolen by someone.

"Still, who would—Hey, boatman, that brat from before....."

"Y, yeah.I think that it was probably that Marco. He's a habitual criminal known for pickpocketing and dine-and-dashing."

So it was that terrible brat called Marco or whatever!

"That rascal.....!"

"We're goin' after him, Yuu!"

Tossing a single gold coin to the boatman, libsal jumped off from the gondola.

Pita (Splash). Standing on the water, libsal ran on the water while making ripples in the water.

"That shitty little!"

Following suit, I jumped from the gondola and got down onto the land near the waterway.

"I'll search from above. You, you search below!"

"Right!"

When we bumped fists with each other, we split into two groups as if we had repelled each other.

"Dammit, to think that I didn't notice.....!"

It was probably at the moment that the gondola greatly shook that that terrible brat took out my wallet from my pocket.

Thinking about it now, those words "Sorry about that, Nii-chan" could be heard as "(About taking your wallet) Sorry about that, Nii-chan" with that kind of meaning.

"That shitty brat, I'll tie him up with a rope and drag him along!!"

I ran through the streets of the town that branched out like a spider's web at full speed.



"Hehe, too easy, too easy."

The criminal that pilfered the wallet from Yuu, Marco was tossing the stolen wallet up and down like a beanbag while chuckling.

"It's the rider's fault for spacing out while all exposed."

The wallet was heavy, so there was quite an amount of coins inside.

Even if they were copper coins, with this amount, it would cover the costs of meals for a while.

"Now then, to see the spoils~.....Ohh! It's full of gold and silver coins! I've hit the jackpot!"

When he opened the wallet, there were several pieces of Makaruin gold coins (the gold coins that are universally circulated in Reynbrook), a lot of silver coins, and only ten-odd small change copper coins, making it an unbelievable amount of earnings.

"Hehe, I feel sorry for that Nii-chan, but I'll be making good use of this."

First of all, in celebration of his victory, maybe some expensive food.....That was the target that he thought of.

"Heeh~, that's great. Could you tell me how exactly you're going to use it~"

A low, and yet cheerful sounding voice was heard from behind Marco.

"Wha!?"

"I, take the stage."

In front of Marco who had turned around as if his head had snapped to it, the owner of the wallet appeared.

"If you obediently return my wallet, I'll let this all finish up with hitting you only a single time. But if you choose to resist, I'll push you out to the vigilante corps. The choices that are left for you are these two."

Slowly approaching, Yuu closed the distance between him and Marco. In response to that, Marco peeked to his back, and confirmed his "escape route".

".....So you have no intention of returning it."

When he muttered that, Yuu broke out into a single step as if he were walking, and

"And, I've got you."

"Wha, uwah!?"

he stood at Marco's back, gripped the collar of his clothes, and easily lifted him up.

"L, let me go, let me go, you dope!"

"Who are you calling a dope. Jeez, I'll push you out to the vigilante corps like this and—"

Having breathed a sigh at the noisy Marco, just as Yuu had started talking,

"っ!?"

a flash skimmed right beside Yuu's face.

"っ,.....Who's there!"

Having promptly surveyed the vicinity so as to gain an understanding of the present situation, a figure of a person was reflected in Yuu's field of vision.

There was a single young lady wearing a cap that was worn low and covered her eyes and a deep blue coat meant for women.

"Release that child, you scum."

Sublime and beautiful, the one once called the Princess Knight, the figure of Sylvia was there.

Chapter 134: The Empire's Empress and Marco the Hurricane

There's no mistake. There's no way to be mistaken.

She was wearing clothes that were casual wear and not a dress or a helmet and armor, but it was Sylvia.

Emerald eyes that were opened wide in surprise, and silver hair that peeked out from the casquette cap.

And then, above all—

"Y, Yuu!? Wh, why are you in a place like this.....? no, to think that you would raise a hand towards a child.....YOU!"

"Wa, wah—! Wait wait wait! A misunderstanding, you're making a misunderstanding, Sylvia-san!"

This serious anger that feels like she'll burst into flames, there's no mistake that she's Sylvia.

Rather, why did things turn out like this!?

"No excus—,No, it certainly is hard to believe that you would raise your hand against a child for no reason....."

Phew. For now, it looks like I've escaped the entrance of a special move right when we meet.

"However, you're a guy that would show no mercy to even a woman depending on the circumstances.I'll have you tell me your reason."

"Oi, baka, stop that, you're making me sound like the villain."

".....Despite having performed eccentricities like running around while wearing a woman's underwear on your face and raising a strange voice, you still say that?"

Sylvia's scornful eyes turned towards me.

"Guh.....That one of those errors made due to youth things, so please pardon me for that."

"That was something from only three years ago, wasn't it?"

"But isn't there the saying of "when young men part for three days, they will view each other in a different light then they meet again", right?"

"Jeez, you.....words of mending just come out in abundance from you, don't they."

Getting lured in by Sylvia who smiled while looking amazed, I also loosened my cheeks.

Within that warm atmosphere, there was someone that tore it up.

".....Keh, even though ya caught me, to think ya'd flirt and ignore me, that's quite some treatment, ain't it."

It was the terrible brat that stole my wallet. Crap, I totally forgot about him.

"That face says "I forgot", right? Dammit, ta think I was caught by a dull guy like this, Marco the 『Hurricane』-sama sure has fallen to the ground."

The terrible brat Marco crossed his arms and looked vexed while still in a hanging state.

I unintentionally leaked a sigh from that attitude that was awfully self-important. This truly does feel like the phrase about not showing remorse in spite of being in the wrong really fits here.

"So, you're called Marco?"

Sylvia bent her knees and leveled her gaze with Marco's.

"That's right! I'm Marco. This town's best pickpocketing master."

Being looked at by those emerald eyes, Marco named himself sounding shy. Hearing that, Sylvia leaked out a small sigh.

"Pickpocketing.....Huh. I see, I finally understand. I apologize, Yuu."

"Nn, well, don't worry about it."

This time, I didn't get anything done to me by Sylvia after all. Plus, my wallet did come back to me.

"Still, what should I do.....Should I hand him over to the military police?"

"Heheh, for me who knows a loophole even if I get caught by a regiment of the military policemen, that's just pointless, ya know?"

Marco was brimming with confidence. He probably wasn't caught by a regiment of the military policemen just once or twice.

".....Yuu, the dealing of this boy, could you possibly leave it to me?"

"Ha?"

Sylvia took off her casquette cap, and freed her long hair. Bathing in the sun, her hair glistened beautifully.

While making such a charming gesture, Sylvia talked with an awfully serious facial expression.

"Dealing with him.....Like having him be a beheading assistant? That's quite dangerous."

"Wha, y, your wrong!This boy, he does not seem to harbor any feelings of guilt for his conduct of stealing."

When Sylvia snapped her fingers, Silent Magic was instantly invoked.

Seeming like the terrible brat Marco didn't hear it, it would seem that she didn't use the range type but used the type of Silent Magic for use on an individual person.

"Teaching those that don't feel anything about crime about the crime. That is the duty of someone like me."

Her emerald eyes that made me feel her strong determination were turned straight towards me.

".....Haa, I got it, Sylvia."

"Umu. I will show you that I can definitely reform him."

Slightly raising the corners of her mouth, Sylvia smiled.

Showing a gallant smile that couldn't be called a smile, Sylvia next turned her gaze towards Marco.

"Marco the 『Hurricane』. I will not send you to the regiment of military policemen.....In exchange, would you like to try working for me?"

"You want me, to work under you?"

In response to Sylvia who had suggested that with a gentle smile, Marco asked that while being doubtful.

"Umu. Producing fortune with your own sweat, that is manual labor. And then, the amassed fortune from manual labor, those that steal that from someone uninvolved and then laugh, that is a thief."

When I put Marco down since he had no signs of running away, Sylvia went onto one knee and took Marco's hand.

"If the fortune that one desperately worked for and amassed is stolen, people will have anger in their chests.Marco, up until now, have you ever pickpocketed, only to get scolded by someone, then have violence exercised on you?"

Being asked that, after thinking about it for a little while, Marco made a small nod.

"That's only natural. Stealing is a crime where it's appropriate for a fist to be pointed towards you.Marco, a crime is in other words anger. If angered, people will clench their fists.....So as to not cause conflict with those clenched fists, punishment is needed, and calmly deciding that punishment is what the law is."

Gently, but powerfully. To admonish him, Sylvia continued.

"Marco, you've escaped the law, and committed crimes. That is conduct where it is only appropriate to bestow punishment.However, people have the obligation to live. For people to live, money is needed no matter what. Therefore you committed the crime of stealing. Isn't that right?"

Marco, his eyes still cast downwards, made a small nod.

"Well then, as for how you obtain money without committing a crime....."

"Work, is that what you mean?"

"That's right."

In response to the words that Marco replied with, Sylvia nodded with a whole faced smile.

"Even in working, there are many types of jobs.Among them, the job that I would like to request of you, Marco, is that I would like for you to be my guide in this town."

Sylvia, who was on one knee, stood up.

"This town has a lot of paths, and it's easy to get lost. I have also had many times where I felt like I was going to get lost. I would like to appoint someone who knows the geography very well."

"Then, I'll do it!"

Putting her hand on her waist, Sylvia expressed a dignified smile, and Marco vigorously nodded.

"I see.Then, first of all, before your job, could you apologize to this man?"

Sylvia peeked over at me and winked.

Properly forgive him, okay? is what her eyes felt like they were saying.

Even I don't feel like overturning everything after she had prepared things this far.

"Uhm.....I'm really sorry, Nii-chan."

".....Ou. Don't do it again, alright?"

In response to Marco who apologized while returning my wallet, I lightly poked Marco's head and forgave him.

Pan, pan, pan (Clap, clap, clap)

The sound of dried hands clapping could be heard from the sky.

No, to be accurate, it was from on top of the roofs.

"And they all lived happily ever after, is that where this story is? But man, you've really surprised me."

It was the redhead, tall statured man, Iibsal. With Sylvia's entry onto the stage, I completely forgot about him.....

"Iibsal!?Why, are you.....?"

"I'm here to participate in the tournament."

In response to Sylvia who looked up and shouted, Iibsal came down with an attitude that had a lot of composure.

"To think that Yuu and Sylvia had a relationship where you knew each

other.....Just what kind of relationship do you guys have?"

libsal's eyes were gleaming with complete interest.

Chapter 135: The Preceding Hero, the Fist Fighter, and the Empress

libsal expressed a smile like that of a lion that discovered its prey.

Compared to that, Sylvia sharpened her eyes and glared at libsal.

A cold atmosphere where it was hard to say anything enveloped the vicinity.

"....."

"Oi oi, so you're just gonna keep silent, Sylvia."

"Hmph.I do not have anything to talk with you about."

"You're unfriendly as always, aren't you, Sylvia. Well, that's what's so good about you."

Sylvia turned a sharp gaze at libsal who was talking like he had a lot of leeway with her.....

Eh, what is this? Why did it turn into such a bloodthirsty atmosphere?

"Same to you.....What kind of relationship do you have with Yuu?"

Sylvia asked that while libsal and I looked at each other.

When she did, libsal crossed his arms, thought for a bit, and then replied.

"A relationship where we exchanged blows once in the middle of town?"

"Are you stupid, Yuu!! Just what are you thinking as you live your life!!"

Owah, for some reason, Sylvia's face is completely red and she has started shouting. Eh, did I do something bad? No,having a fighting disturbance in the middle of town certainly is bad, yeah.

"It, it was something from three years ago, so I've already reached the statute of limitations, right?"

"As if it would reach the statute of limitations in just a little under three years! Rather, three years ago?Then that would mean that it was during the time I went to Castle Ixion.....I'm amazed it didn't turn into an international problem."

Sylvia leaked out a deep sigh.

Still, an international problem, isn't that too big of a scale? No, well, certainly, I did exchange blows in the country of Valanshel with Libsal who is the country's fist fighter. But in the end, it was just a fight between two ordinary guys, wasn't it? Ah, but, three years ago, I had the role of a baggage carrier, didn't I. Something like the Hero troupe's baggage carrier brawling with the country's fist fighter.....Ah—, I get it, that's true. That certainly could've turned into an international problem.

".....Sorry, Sylvia."

"Uh.....It, it's fine. At any rate, it's something of the past. Reflect on it and capitalize on the experience next time."

When I apologized, Sylvia forgave me. Man—, thank goodness Leezelion and Valanshel didn't get into bad situation because of me, thank goodness.

"Still, Yuu and Sylvia, huh.....!Heh, you should've told me about it before if that was the case, Yuu. Listen to this, Sylvia. I was in the middle of bringing this guy who said that he was a fan of yours over to your place, you know?"

Maybe having thought of something, libsal smiled with a smirk. I didn't say that I was a fan.

"Wha.....!Is, is-is, is that true, Yuu.....♪"

"Eh? (I didn't say a single word about being a fan though) Yeah, libsal said that he would let me meet you."

"Is that.....so.You, think of me as.....～～♪"

Sylvia went bright red up to her ears. Were her lips trembling because she was restraining a smirk?

Ah, she was unable to restrain it and started laughing.

.....What is this cute creature.

"I was surprised that you were acquainted with that Sylvia, Yuu."

Making a sidelong glance at Sylvia who had finally reached the point of hiding her face with both hands and writhing in agony, libsal put his arm around my neck and talked to me in whispers.

"No wonder she wouldn't yield herself to me. She already has someone that she likes."

"You.....So you were trying to seduce even Sylvia."

"Yeah, it's because I want as many good women as I like."

To flirt with the Empress of the major power, Leezelion, is this jerk scared of anything?

"Well, when the other party is a woman with a man, it goes against my creed."

"Hee, so it's not like you go and steal another guy's woman."

"Makin' the woman pleased while enjoyin' their body is my way of doin' things. 'Sides, times where the name of some other jerk comes out when we're doin' it really makes me wither, ya know?"

The moment I feel admiration for him, this jerk goes and completely destroys it.

Shit, pretty boys should all just go and die, dammit.

"And so, I don't need Sylvia anymore. Do what ya like."

"That way of speaking is like you're her owner."

He's a guy that thoroughly keeps himself as the center of everything.

"Still, we've lost what we needed to do."

To begin with, we started moving with the goal of libsal making me meet with Sylvia.

However, Sylvia and I were already acquainted, and since Sylvia had appeared without an attendant with her, the objective we had at the beginning had collapsed.Nn? No attendant?

".....Wait, Sylvia. Come to think of it, why don't you have a single guard with you?"

Sylvia was in a top position of a country. It should only be natural that a top position of a country would have an attendant or two accompanying them.

Then why was that Sylvia alone in the middle of town?

"Mu,That's right, I forgot. I was about to go and meet with the present day Heroes."

"Present day?You mean Kaito and the others?"

Twintails who I just shook off a little while ago crossed my mind.

"Yes.There's, something that I wanted to ascertain. Since I had some free time, I slipped away."

"Y, you slipped away!? You, even if it's only for an instant, you're a ruler! How could you do something so stupid! Before you go calling people stupid, aren't you the stupid one!?"

"Muh.....Hmph! Even though I came on the right date and time that I was invited for, if I'm shut up in a small building for two days, of course I'll want to go out."

Is that really alright, ruler?

"The Hero's place huh.....Ush, I'll be goin' along with ya."

Maybe having thought of something, libsal came forward. It's this guy we're talking about, so he'll probably be wanting to have a battle or something like that. I mean, his face is smiling after all.

"I don't mind but.....Yuu, are you coming as well?"

"Me? Why?"

"Don't you also have some things to talk about?"

"Well, it's not like I don't have something but....."

I did meet with the Twintails of the present day Heroes party immediately after coming to this town after all, so I explained to Sylvia about the quarrel that we had.

"You really are....."

"Stop it, don't look at me with those eyes."

Together with a grand sigh, Sylvia turned an amazed gaze at me. It, it couldn't be helped! That Twintails suddenly came attacking me, you know? So of course I would run away at full power.

".....Nn? No, there is a hand we can play, Yuu."

Seeming like she came up with something, Sylvia smiled with a grin.Ah—, it kind of feels like I'm getting one of those bad feelings I haven't gotten in a while?

"If I remember correctly, the Darkness Executioner.....was it? If you wear those clothes, then wouldn't you be able to hide your face? Nn?"

Chapter 136: The Empress's Appointment-less Visit

In the town of Galarie where every day had become a revelry in preparation for the main competition of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration, only a certain part of it had its hustle and bustle fall silent, and there was a group that had monopolized the people's gazes.

It was a bizarre scene.

Following a young boy that seemed to be a guide, there was a woman wear a cap low over her eyes and wrapped in a light blue coat. A 180 cm tall statured, top half-naked, redhead man.

And then—.

"....."

A mysterious man wearing a black overcoat with flames embroidered on it and hiding his face with the hood.

The residents living in this town knew that the guiding young boy was Marco the pickpocketer.

Then, just what was that strange combination trio that were following behind that Marco.

The woman was still fine. No, even the tall statured man was still fine. He was only naked from the waist up.

Then just what in the world was the black clothed man. Despite hiding his face, that man was clad in a conspicuous overcoat that seemed to madly scream "I am here".

".....It's still, it's still fine at battle time.....But, this is totally not clothing meant to be worn in everyday life."

The black clothed man that received all of the public's gazes, that said person, as if it were all biting into him, made a small moan.

The black clothed man was of course Yashiro Yuu.

"It cannot be helped. According to your story, it would be bad for you to meet with the present day Heroes right now. Besides, did you not say that you had suddenly met them on the roadside? As long as you wear that overcoat, there won't be a problem even if we suddenly encounter them."

The woman wearing the light blue coat, Sylvia took a half step back and whispered to the moaning Yuu. That mouth of hers was twitching as if she were holding back her laughter.

"No, first of all, why do I have to come along with you?"

"You have some free time anyhow, right?There is also something I wish to show you.Come along without complaining."

Considering things a little, Sylvia said that. Though it was only for a brief moment, Yuu didn't overlook Sylvia's brooding expression.

"Something you want to show me, huh."

Sensing that it wasn't that she simply wanted him to go and greet them, Yuu made a small nod.

It would have been fine for him to ask about what it was, but estimating that there was a reason why Sylvia didn't explain what it was right here and now, Yuu breathed a small sigh and just walked following after Sylvia.

"Still, to think that Yuu was that 『Darkness Executioner』. I didn't see it personally, but you knocked down a Duke class, right? Hey, hey, how did ya beat 'em?"

".....Even if you ask how. If you borrow the power of the 『Witch of Time』 then"

"What!? So you also have a relationship with that 『Witch of Time』 Norn! Kuhahaha, you really are interestin', aren't cha, Yuu!"

Three years before, the 『Witch of Time』 Norn taught Yuu, who had just become the Hero and was only swinging his sword with the power he had

obtained, how to use fighting techniques and the method of saving power. Just as many know, Norn, who is able to manipulate time, has maintained a neutral position without coming under any country for a certain reason.

Naturally, the reason is because 『Time Magic』 is an unfair technique.

Things like knowing the future and interfering with the past, 『Time Magic』 which can freely manipulate the concept known as time is a magic that anyone would want.

Just by acquiring Norn, this continent's power balance would be toppled over. Because she is self-aware of that, Norn goes around to each nation, and after staying temporarily, she goes to the next country again. She does that kind of ridiculous thing.

It's understandable that Libsal was surprised. Borrowing the power of 『Time Magic』.....If it's just requesting something of Norn, it seemed like it would be a simple matter, but the fact that Norn "lent" her power was probably seen as something heavy. If it was known that she had lent her power to someone, a guy that would cause an uproar would appear without fail. Unless it was someone worthy enough for her to spend the effort to deal with such people, she most likely wouldn't lend her power to them.

Well, the one that Yuu had cast Time Magic on him was Lililuri though.

Yuu fired off a fist so as to push at Libsal who, maybe because he thought something was funny, was holding his sides and laughing, but that was easily avoided.

"You jerk, don't go dodging my fist that I fired from your blind spot so easily."

"Heh, I've got no reason to take a fist with no killing intent."

Yuu had let out a sigh at the laughing Libsal, but noticing a gaze, when he turned to it,

"....."

For some reason, Sylvia was looking at Yuu with a stern expression.

".....S, Sylvia-san?"

"What is it?"

"Could it be that you're mad?"

"I am not mad."

She was mad. He did not know why or for what reason. But Yuu understood. That Sylvia was in a bad mood.

".....Yuu, you and Libsal get along quite well, don't you."

"Heh?Well, we do have a relationship where we seriously exchanged blows once."

By exchanging blows once, one gets to know about the opponent. That was one of the things that Yuu came to learn after coming to this world.

".....I see."

Looking like she had something caught between her molars, Sylvia seemed to want to say something.Should he look into it? No, now that the conversation had been cut off, shouldn't he ask about it? Yuu was pondering that, but Marco's voice interrupted him.

"Look, this is the Central District, Princess!"

"Umu.Hou, it really is flourishing."

What had come into Yuu's group's sight was a huge plaza with a mansion that had a size big enough to make them look up. At the place called the Central Plaza, there were shops and street performers that were making the tourists enjoy themselves.

Just as its name implies, being at the center of the town, it was surrounded by waterways and streets in every direction.

"Wait, this thing doesn't have a gentle appearance of a mansion. Isn't that already a castle?"

Yuu was astonished by the mansion that had an appearance that should be called a fortress.

"Actually, it probably is a castle. We are talking about that Zeke Oisast after all."

"Oisast?"

Yuu tilted his head at the unfamiliar name.

"Come to think of it, his birthplace wasn't on this continent. Yuu, do you know about the 『Ten Year War』?"

"If it's just that much.....If I remember correctly, wasn't it that thing where a dispute caused by a country called 『Rishulia』 had become big enough to get the world involved? Since the time of its outbreak to the country's disappearance was exactly ten years, it's called the 『Ten Year War』."

He mobilized the knowledge that was driven into his head when he came to this other world three years ago and remembered it. Sylvia, who had instructed Yuu in his history studies at that time, gave him a passing mark and made a small nod.

"That's right. And so, Zeke Oisast is a hero that participated in the 『Ten Year War』. He's the guy referred to as the 『Mercenary King』. It seems that he was skilled in war."

"Accurately speaking, it was the mercenary corps that Zeke Oisast was leading that was the miracle maker though."

"Come to think of it, didn't you guys fight each other at the time of the 『Ten Year War』?"

"Because it was before I was born, my father, did. I've listened about it from him ever since I was little, about the mercenary corps' powerfulness and his grudge against Zeke Oisast."

Sylvia laughed, making a bitter smile.

"Now then, we've come to the Central District but.....What do we do after this?"

When Yuu asked that, Sylvia slowly took off her cap.

"People at the level of Hero would be with their own country. They wouldn't be restrained, but they would probably have an observer or two keeping an eye on them."

And then, making loud, clicking footsteps, Sylvia started walking towards the

mansion.

That way of walking, was strong.

"Hold up, wait.....You, you couldn't be!"

"It's exactly what you are thinking. Besides, I'm sure that I've said it already. That though I was invited by Zeke Oisast, I was shut inside a small mansion for two days."

With a grin, Sylvia smiled. In Yuu's mind, he shouted "Don't grin like that—!".

"Mansion guards over there."

Having walked up to the front of the mansion, Sylvia called out to the two mansion guards that were in front of the large door and holding spears.

"My name is Sylvia Loto Sheriotto Leezelion. Send my word to Zeke Oisast immediately."

Putting her uselessly abundant charisma into full throttle, Sylvia continued on without minding the mansion guards that had jumped to attention.

"That [Since you weren't coming over to me, I came over to you.]. Report that to him."

Was this one of those so called "Ehehe, I came by!" messages? No, that's not it, this isn't something as bittersweet as that. That is how Yuu started to escape from reality after seeing the Imperial Princess-sama strike an appointment-less visit.

Chapter 137: War of Words, War of Killing Gazes

".....Fumu, this is good tea."

Having struck hard with an appointment-less visit to Galarie's Feudal Lord, Zeke Oisast's mansion, Sylvia drank the brought out black tea that was meant for visitors, and said that.

No, it would make for a really great picture but, having intruded with a suddenness on the level of raiding a neighbor's dinner time, isn't your attitude too high and mighty?

"I prefer alcohol though. Well, I guess I'll endure it."

As for you, it's no longer on the level of being called attitude, Iibsal. You're just shameless, you idiot!

"How about you have a seat as well, Yuu."

In this room that was prepared for guest-use, there was furniture and various furnishings that seemed expensive just from looking at them all set up. Both Sylvia and Iibsal were sitting on expensive looking sofas.

"Sorry, but I've made it a thing to not sit in chairs that look more expensive than my own clothes."

I decided it just now.

"Hmph. Nothing but that kind of stupid stuff smoothly comes out from your mouth."

Sylvia glared at me with scornful eyes. But, since they weren't scary, it was meaningless. Rather, a pouting feeling was sprouting from it.

"Still, Sylvia, this time, you've done quite the unreasonable thing. Did you really have to meet with them with such haste?"

When I asked that, Sylvia readjusted her legs.

"Zeke Oisast, was it? Certainly, if it's the Feudal Lord, he would probably know the whereabouts of Kaito.....Of the Heroes in this town.But, it's hard to believe that you would take out your 『political influence』 for only that reason....."

Sylvia Loto Sheriotto Leezelion.

The girl that was called the Princess Knight, whose pride was higher than anyone else's, had a part of her that hated the idea of exercising 『political influence』.

The fact that her older sister that she admired, Olivia, had a gentle personality that wasn't connected to political influence was a big part of it, but it was also because she herself preferred swinging her sword rather than her political influence.

She wanted to remain as a mere knight, and not as royalty. She was a woman that thought that way.

That is why he was surprised by Sylvia who used the strong measure called political influence to forcefully enter the Feudal Lord's mansion.

".....There is no significant reason."

Saying that, Sylvia brought the cup of black tea to her mouth once again.

"Not significant, you—"

I was about to press her about her attitude that seemed to be hiding something, but Libsal stopped me.

"A king is an isolated existence, or so they say."

After drinking up the black tea as if gulping it down, Libsal boldly smiled.

"What do you mean by that?"

When I ask that, Libsal put down the cup.

"Leezelion is a major large country on this continent that rivals Valanshel. And then, Sylvia is Leezelion's Empress.She can't be made light of by a minor

power like Galarie, Yuu."

libsal had a tone of voice that seemed to warning me. With that, I was finally convinced.

In other words, to be neglected for two days despite being invited was being immensely rude to the leader of a major power.

And so that kind of thing would be liable to develop into a diplomatic issue.

"That's why you're also "acting rude", to get even.....Is that right?"

"Correct. And then, to go even further, it gives the meaning of "I've gotten even with you" as well."

Hoe—, that Sylvia, to think she had thought that far.

How should I say this, it has a feeling like, the Empress has stepped up to the plate.

"Explaining something so unnecessary....."

Sylvia turned a sharp gaze towards libsal. As for libsal, he expressed a smile that seemed like he had a lot of composure while being glared at.

To take this kind of attitude in the vicinity of the ruler of a country, does libsal's heart have hair growing on it?

"Nn?"

Going *kotsu kotsu* (click, click), the sound of footsteps hitting the floor at a fixed interval reached my ears.

"Looks like he has arrived."

At the same time Sylvia placed her cup on the table, the door to the room opened.

"I apologize for keeping you waiting, your Majesty."

The one that came into the room was a tall figured man that was in his thirties. He had dull black hair and amethyst eyes.

Wearing a shirt and trousers, and then a thin vest on top of the shirt, he was in garments that seemed easy to move in.

"I do not mind. I should apologize as well, I have troubled you, the Lord, with my sudden visit after all."

In response to the man who made an apologetic sounding apology, Sylvia stood up and answered him while making her voice firm. I see, so this is Sylvia when she is facing outward.

"What are you saying. To have this end result of having your Majesty bring yourself here despite having been invited is....."

"It is fine. Lord, I believe myself to understand how busy you are."

"Thank you for your blessing."

Saying that, Sylvia and the Feudal Lord man sat down on the sofas.

"Now then, Lord, do you mind if I change the topic?"

The moment the apology battle ended, when Sylvia asked that with a voice that had dropped several tones, the Feudal Lord man whose eyebrows were in the shape of an eight (八) up until just a moment ago, turned a sharp gaze at Sylvia.

"I do not mind but.....Before that, may I hear about the people in your company?"

With a peek, the Feudal Lord looked at me and Libsal. The moment that sharp gaze was turned towards me,

"Nowah! Oi oi, what are you doing all of a sudden, youngster!"

"!?"

I took my Magic Sword out from the different dimensional bag, and drew the Magic Sword out from its scabbard.

Having eyes that resembled a hawk and filled with bloodlust turned towards me, my body reacted all on its own.

"Hou.....So the one I should watch over isn't the crown prince, but the black clothed man over there, is it."

Raising the corners of his mouth, the Feudal Lord man made a wry smile.

"It would help if you didn't stir him up too much. I also have no intentions of stirring up trouble with you, Lord."

"So it would seem.So you are the 『Darkness Executioner』 that was at the battlefield. I see, they say the name expresses the body, but this is my first time experiencing being about to be murdered without any bloodlust in it."

The man stroked his neck while wryly smiling, and turned his gaze away from me and over to libsal.

"To think that the Crown Prince of Valanshel would come here together with the Empress of Leezelion, as expected, I could not foresee this."

"Haha, neither could I. Well, this time is special. Because this time, we assembled under a common friend."

"Hou....."

"....."

My gaze overlapped with the Feudal Lord's gaze again. This time, there wasn't any bloodlust, and was only a gaze that seemed to be measuring me up.

"Let me ask you this without beating around the bush, Lord Oisast. I would like you to tell me the location of where the present day Heroes are right now."

Maybe because the story had strayed, Sylvia cut straight into the conversation and told him her business here. Receiving that, the Feudal Lord man frowned.

"I certainly do know that information. But however, what will you do after learning that? Besides, even if I don't tell you, it would be fine if I just prepare a place for you."

"It is nothing worth sticking your head into.....I suppose you wouldn't assent even if I told you that. I shall answer you honestly. I do not wish for you, the Lord, to stand between us."

"Well then, you want me to tell you the lodging of the Hero troupe, and yet not stand between you all, is that it? Is that not awfully one-sided?"

The air between Sylvia and the Feudal Lord had become cold enough to give the illusion that it had frozen over. Seeing that, I really wanted the boldness that Ibsal, who had broken into a smile, had and put into the current me.

Rather, seriously, what the heck is this middle aged Ossan. To have a war of words with a snapped Sylvia who was putting out bloodlust.....Is this the power of a hero that lived through the Ten Year War?

"What are you trying to say. No, what do you want?"

"Nothing that significant.That's right, I just happen to be lacking in a single participant in the Magic Clad Demonstration. If the 『Darkness Executioner』 over there were to serve as the participant replacement, I would delightfully pay with a tidbit of information or two."

The Feudal Lord looked at me with the eyes of a hawk, and made a small smile.

Chapter 138: Country Selected Recommendation

"A country selected recommendation, is it."

"That is exactly right, your Majesty. There are eight participants from the arenas in various places, and then four participants each from the arena here in Galarie and the country selected recommendations, and like that, the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration takes place with a total of 16 participants. However, this time, because of some certain trouble, this country selected recommendation has only filled three spots.....『Darkness Executioner』, if he were to participate as Leezelion's country selected recommendation, that would also be filled. And then, if the warrior with many mysteries that was adorned with filling space in the history books together with the Hero at one point were to make an appearance, the spectators would be extremely delighted."

Sylvia noticed a suspicious light lurking in the eyes of that gentle smile, but she only breathed a small sigh.

"That is a pleasant negotiation for me as well.....Or it would be, but unfortunately, I do not have that authority, Lord Oisast."

"Well then, the talk about the Hero troupe is....."

"Umu. I am sorry to say, but it seems we can only make it as if it never happened. After all.....『Darkness Executioner』, something like the right to command this man, is something that I do not happen to have."

"Your Majesty, is unable to command him?So he is not one of you Majesty's subordinates, nor an attendant?"

"Hahaha, Lord, you say things that are quite off the mark."

Sylvia made a strained laugh sounding amazed.

"Did you not hear Libsal's words?He, is my friend. Not my subordinate.And even before that, there probably isn't a country that has him as a subordinate. Executioner, you probably have something you received from the

『Witch of Time』, could I have you take that out?"

"Do you mean this?"

There are two things that I received from the 『Witch of Time』, from Baba-chan. The silver feathered Kulkel, Silber, and then the black Guild card.

Since Silber isn't here right now, that wouldn't become anything that would be a show of proof. Then what remained was the Guild card. When he saw the Guild card that I took out, Zeke Oisast's smile froze up.

"Look, as you can see. This person, the 『Darkness Executioner』 is a cooperative worker of the 『Witch of Time』. Even I wouldn't want to cause a problem between me and the 『Witch of Time』.Lord, you are the same as well, correct?"

In response to Sylvia's question, Oisast silently nodded.

"Therefore, he cannot be forced to fight.However, and this is a however, Lord Oisast."

Sylvia made a giggle, and crossed her legs with a voluptuousness that didn't match her age.

"He and I have a "personal" association.If the Lord so desires, "I" can try making an earnest request."

While having a style that was truly worthy of being a king drifting about her, Sylvia made a proposition to Oisast.

This wasn't written on any documents. However, a second borrowing and lending was arranged right here between two fellow leaders of nations.



"Sorry, Yuu."

At the time we left Zeke Oisast's mansion, Sylvia made an apology towards me. With a face that looked terribly apologetic.

"Don't worry about it, Sylvia."

Talking about the result, I was now going to participate in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration as the mysterious warrior 『Darkness Executioner』.

Zeke Oisast. In order to create a debt for this town of Galarie's Feudal Lord towards a major power, she assented to my participation in the tournament.

"Yuu——、"

"It's fine, whatever. If it's a favor for you, this is nothing."

Of course, I don't want to stand out. It'd bring about various troubles after all. However, I couldn't turn my back to the point of refusing the request of Sylvia who was a companion that I had always traveled together with in my journey in this world three years ago.

Well, I was thinking that I would like to enjoy it as being on the watching side, if possible.

"B, but still!The 『Darkness Executioner』 received a recommendation from Leezelion. In short, that has the same meaning as it being known that the 『Darkness Executioner』 has a connection with Leezelion!"

"From the start, I was treated as your friend, they'd be suspicious of there being some kind of connection."

"....."

Sylvia had fallen silent, but that facial expression didn't look like she could assent to that. Certainly, I had no desire to participate. But, just as I said earlier, it being troublesome wasn't enough of a reason to refuse Sylvia's request.

"Besides, you were in enough of a hurry that you were swaying on whether to accept this negotiation or not, right?"

Something she wanted to show me. Most likely, it wasn't Zeke Oisast, but something related to Kaito and the others.

".....Yeah. I, need to meet with the present day Heroes, and confirm something as soon as possible."

"Then it couldn't be helped. Let's see, if you prepare an inn for me for tonight, then that'll make us even."

Remembering that I still haven't gotten an inn, I proposed that. When I did, Sylvia's face, which had a stiff expression, crumbled into a smile.

"You.....Fufu, you really are an optimistic fellow."

"Hehe, pretty much."

"Yes, really....."

Sylvia's face was dyed red. The distance between us naturally became smaller and—.

"Let me tell ya somethin', Yuu. The thin' that I hate the most is bein' ignored, got it?"

We were interrupted by libsal who cut into the space between us.

"Ii, libsal!?"

"Y,YOU JERK, AT LEAST READ THE MOOD."

"Oh—, scary, scary. Feels like you'll curse me to death."

Making my face as red as an apple and jumping at him, libsal looked at my and Sylvia's reactions and smiled with a grin.

When I thought I'd throw a punch at libsal who had spoiled everything even though it had gotten into a good atmosphere, just when I raised my fist, that fist was suddenly stopped.

"Whoa there, I'll be leavin' the fun for later."

My fist was stopped by how libsal had changed the atmosphere around him entirely.

"No matter what the circumstances were, you are now participatin'.This time's Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration, sorry but I'm goin' to go all out, got it?"

If Zeke Oisast was a hawk, libsal was a ferocious carnivore. In addition to that, it wasn't the impression of a hyena that searches for tainted meat, but that of a lion worthy of being king.

".....I see, in that case, we can't go punching each other right now."

"That's right."

When I said that, Libsal smiled and separated from me.

"Today was fun, Yuu.I look forward to the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration that starts the day after tomorrow."

"Ah? What's with that all of a sudden—"

Libsal abruptly said words of farewell.

I was surprised because of how it was all too sudden, but what followed was something that was even more surprising.

Za za za (Marching). The audible sound of military shoes in a fixed interval.

Armor and spears, tens of knights that were clad in such armaments had come marching towards the plaza that was in front of this Feudal Lord's mansion.

"Wh, what's going on?"

"A pattern of a double-headed dragon and a spear that goes through its body, Valanshel, huh."

Different from me who was surprised by that, Sylvia calmly observed the knights. Certainly, looking closely, the emblem of a two headed dragon and a spear that was the symbol of Valanshel was applied to their shields and armor.

"Soldiers? Whose are they?"

"That's the Empire, its Empire Valanshel!"

"What is Valanshel doing in a place like this....."

Seeing the appearance of the knights that were marching with an imposing atmosphere, the vicinity became astir.

Different from that environment, Libsal started walking. And then, towards those Valanshel knights that were still marching even now, he raised his voice.

"Good work, picking me up."

libsal's voice suppressed the noise of the crowds, and resounded in the plaza.

Seeming to respond to that, the Knights stopped their march, and aligned themselves in front of libsal.

And then—,

"Fumu, it would seem that mine has come as well."

"By "mine", you mean.....!"

Za za za (Marching)

The sound of many footsteps and the clanking of shaking armor echoed in the plaza that had fallen silent.

When I turned towards the direction that Sylvia was facing, what reflected in my eyes was the design of a pair of wings and a sword.

"That's.....Leezelion!?"

With a man clad in blue armor at the lead, the Knights of Leezelion came marching.

"Thank you for your labor, in picking me up."

When Sylvia spoke words of thanks to the Knights that came to pick her up, the surrounding crowd's and my confusion reached its climax.

That wasn't unreasonable. After all, the troops of two countries that had the rank of being major powers, were right now, for some reason, gathered in this plaza.

Chapter 139: Crown Prince Coming to Light

How did things turn out like this?

There is no mistake that the ordinary people that happened to be in this place were thinking that. Incidentally, I also thought that.

The armies of Leezelion and Valenshel, which were great world powers, clashed in the middle of town. Was a war going to occur? is what they were probably thinking while trembling in fear. I was the same.

Let me say it again, how did things turn out like this?

"Oya? You are.....This is quite the rare combination."

After the blue armored knight that came leading the Leezelion soldiers, Leonhart Clasion, turned his gaze towards me, he looked at Libsal and muttered that.

"It's been a while, Leonhart. So you came leadin' the army."

"Yes. The lady that originally should have taken the lead, was here after all."

".....Hmph."

Sylvia snorted her nose and turned away from Leonhart who made a small laugh. It seemed that she wasn't sorry for anything.

"It has been a while, hasn't it, [Darkness Executioner]. To think that we would meet again in a place like this."

".....It's the first time in three years, Leo."

With a smile that would instantly captivate someone if they were the opposite sex, the pretty boy, Leonhart, looked at me. But unfortunately, the smiling face of a pretty boy has no effect on me. Or rather, since I know that

this guy is black-hearted, has a hobby of playing with and defeating others, and is a terrible guy who takes delight in people's reactions to his pranks, it has no effect. This jerk, there's no mistake that he is thinking about how he would mess with me underneath that sweet mask of his.

"Foolish older brother!"

"Oh?"

From the unit on the Valanshel side, a voice that was like a shout was raised. The one that destroyed the conversation mood was a darkish skinned, red-haired, glasses wearing boy. He looked like his age was a year or two above mine.

"Ohh, and on this side is Luzrashil. So you were the one that took the lead."

"All thanks to a certain someone that ran away without leaving a single letter about his leave behind."

So libsal and Sylvia did something similar to what the other did.

.....Still, this man called Luzrashil, he looks just like a certain someone..... rather, just like libsal.

In comparison to libsal who one could tell that he was a muscle-brain from his macho muscle appearance, maybe because of his spindly figure and glasses, he looked like he was extremely intelligent.

Their appearances were complete polar opposites, but starting with their looks, they carried atmospheres that resembled each other closely.

Ah, come to think of it, he called libsal foolish older brother. So in other words, libsal and this person are siblings.

They're siblings that have similar looks but have personalities that don't seem similar at all.

"Nn.....And who, are you?"

Noticing my gaze, Luzrashil glared at me.

"Ahh, this guy is 『Darkness Executioner』."

"This man is him!?"

Surprised by libsal's words, Luzrashil approached me, and turned evaluating eyes towards me.

".....I am Luzrashil Dora Gregoria Valanshel. 『Darkness Executioner』, I have heard of your active roles in the Glard Wasteland and in Lizwadia."

The Glard Wasteland aside, so he knows about the case in Lizwadia.Nn?

"Hey, oi, libsal."

"Ahn? Ahh, come to think of it, I hadn't introduced him to ya. Luzrashil, my younger brother."

"I already know that. I somewhat understood that. About what I want to ask."

Taking a single breath right here, I lowered my voice and asked libsal a question.

"In the name of that younger brother, the name Valanshel was in there but....."

"Ha? Of course it would be in there. He's my younger brother after all."

"So in short, libsal, your family name is....."

"It's Valanshel."

"I haven't heard anything about this, oi!"

"Did I not mention it?"

"No you didn't!"

I did happen to encounter libsal in Valanshel three years ago, but at the time, this guy only named himself as libsal.

Or rather, there's no way I would believe that this brawl loving jerk was

royalty!

.....No, come to think of it, Sylvia should have had a preference to swinging her sword—Ah, come to think of it

"Oi, oi, isn't this really bad? Having the royalty of Leezelion and Valanshel right here, right now."

Valanshel and Leezelion, these two great world powers have competed with each other countless times in the past.

And I've heard that right now, they're in a situation close to a cold war, but if something were to go amiss, even a war might occur.

We had visited Valanshel three years ago, but to summarize the visit of that time, it was just for the reason of making them promise to 『Not provoke a war until the Demon Lord was defeated』.

"As one would expect, a war would not be raised for something of this level."

Sylvia made a wry smile. It seemed that she was listening to the conversation.

"But.....libsal, us remaining here just like this will just turn us into a hindrance to the people. Let us dissolve here."

Peeking over at the vicinity, Sylvia made that proposal to libsal. For the sake of dispelling the worries of the ordinary people as well, she judged that it would be better to quickly depart from this place.

"How could you say somethin' so dull, Sylvia.....is what I'd like to say, but even if we were to walk freely, the soldiers would get in the way.....Well, I'll get on board with that."

libsal said that and turned around. When he did,

ZA!!

The Valanshel Knights divided their ranks in half and created a path.

"See ya, Yuu.....No, 『Darkness Executioner』. I'll be lookin' forward to clashin' against you in the tournament."

Declaring that while turning his back towards me, libsal walked away.

And then, with that libsal as the lead, the Valanshel Knights started marching while making Za za za footsteps.

".....Well then."

Making a bow, libsal's younger brother ran away chasing after his older brother. What a polite younger brother that doesn't resemble the older brother.

"Now then, let us get going as well.....Yuu, let's go."

"Eh, me too?"

When I was watching the Valanshel forces leaving, my shoulder was grabbed by Sylvia.

"Aren't you the one that said you didn't have an inn?"

Come to think of it, I did.

"Well then, I'll be imposing on you."

Quite a lot of various things happened, but like this, we left the Galarie Feudal Lord's mansion.I really would like for the bad-for-my-heart events to end with this.



"So they've finally left."

In Galarie's Feudal Lord's mansion, the owner of it, Zeke Oisast was watching the armies of both Leezelion and Valanshel leave from a window, and breathed out a small sigh sounding tired.

"I've also become quite cowardly."

Zeke Oisast separated from the window while making a wry smile and transferred his gaze to the center of the room.

"Lord Oisast, might I have you, believe my words now?"

In the room that Yuu and the others were in up until just a little while ago, a young lady with a height that could make one say that she was still a little girl, and a brown-skinned woman that accompanied that young lady were there.

When the young lady asked that, Zeke Oisast breathed another sigh.

"I have no choice but to believe them. You were able to guess that Leezelion's empress, Valanshel's crown prince, and then that 『Darkness Executioner』 would visit, as well as guess what that empress desired.I'll believe it, you are the second generation 『Witch of Time』."

Zeke Oisast sat down on the sofa in front of the sofa that the young lady was sitting on.

"Well then.....May I take it, that you believe, what I said about this town's future?"

The young lady that was said to be the 『Witch of Time』 turned a sharp gaze that did not match that appearance of hers towards Zeke Oisast.

".....Yes, I don't want to believe it but—"

"Several days later"

As if to cut into Zeke Oisast's words, the young lady muttered.

"This town, will be trampled down due to Mazoku several days later."

Her dark green eyes were powerfully opened.

Chapter 140: The Preceding Hero and the Luxurious and Gorgeous Inn

"Sylvia, for now, apologize to me."

"Wh, what are you saying all of a sudden?"

Sylvia put herself on guard at my words. That slightly frightened facial expression tickled my sadistic heart.

Wait, no, no, this isn't the time to be saying that kind of stuff.

"As I thought, you are mad at me for selfishly advancing the negotiations, aren't you?"

"That's not it. Well, there are some troublesome points to it, but it's your request, Sylvia. I have no reason to refuse it."

That's right, that didn't really matter to me.

".....Well then, what are you angry about?"

Finding it incomprehensible, Sylvia tilted her head.

It sometimes comes out, this gap where this kind of adorable gesture appears from the usually cool-character Sylvia who is called the Iron Girl. Actually, even now, my heart is beating rapidly. It's gap moe.

Whoops, the thoughts in my brain got derailed. Let's return to the conversation.

"No, you.....It's fine that you got mad about being locked up for two days but.....What part of this is a small building!?"

That's right, what was spread out before me right now was an elegant estate that, although it wasn't as big as the Feudal Lord's mansion, had a vast garden that looked like it could hold a formal tea party and was four stories tall. Even in the vicinity, there were some awfully large inns, but only this building had a

personality that let it be called a Royal Hotel. Though I don't know of an inn could have personality.

"What are you saying, Yuu? It is small, is it not?"

"It's huge! It's plenty huge! It's bigger than my high school gymnasium!"

Incidentally, my high school gymnasium was wide enough to have two basketball courts and the ceiling was high enough that even if a volleyball were to be tossed up, it barely wouldn't reach the top.

"I don't know what kind of thing that jimnazium that you mentioned is, but I cannot deny that it feels like it would be a bit too compact to invite the leader of a foreign country into. Let's see, even if it isn't as big as the Feudal Lord's mansion, it should be like a castle....."

Dammit, come to think of it, this girl is a bourgeois and the royalty of a major power!

"Hey, in actuality, how is it? Is it small?"

When I asked that to Leonhart, who was standing diagonally behind Sylvia and was smiling, with a small voice, Leo wryly smiled.

"I feel that it is more than wide enough. To begin with, this place is an inn meant for several nobles of foreign countries to stay at but....."

This empress, she used an inn that would shelter several nobles all by herself, and it's still not enough!?

That's right, I remember now. Three years ago, there was something that would always irritate Sylvia. That's right, except for the times that her older sister Olivia was sleeping in an extensively extravagant room, her sharp eyes that were always like a drawn knife would become even sharper.

I can remember even now that other than when we were camping, she would go "Anything other than the highest grade down-filled futon does not suit Aneue!" at cheap hotels that were several hundred Forum for a single night.

"What are you doing, Yuu. Let's go."

"Roger that."

Well, it's too late even if I said anything now. Whether it's high class or low class, as long as I can sleep in it, there isn't much of a difference to me.

"Leonhart, I leave the rest to you."

Taking a glance at Leo, Sylvia then looked at the Knights on standby behind Leonhart and gave him that order.

"At your will.First to fourth platoons are on mansion defense, fifth to sixteenth platoons are—"

Leonhart, who had a strong impression of being a refreshing young man, erased his smile and started giving out orders.

"How should I say this, impressive, I guess."

"It's because although he has a terrible disposition, as a Knight, he has a superiority that can't be described with the clichéd word of genius."

If I remember correctly, his age was in the latter half of his twenties. For Leonhart, who was young for a general of the army, working as the commanding officer of the Empress's Imperial Guard, he had to have a high enough fighting ability and commanding ability that he should be said to have been isolated from everyone else.

In particular, in regards to his fighting ability, it was high enough for him to compete against Mazoku, Duke-class at that.

Enough that I could agree with giving him the name of Mankind's strongest.

"Still, even if it was only for an instant, to unleash the ruler of a country into the town alone without a single escort, I'm amazed that Leo would allow that."

Leonhart had come to pick up Sylvia, but I only asked about how he probably was on his walk on route to her. His signs of worry were probably at zero.

"It's because I would not stop even if I was told."

This ruler, she nonchalantly said that.

".....So you do have some self-awareness of it."

"Naturally, I do not intend on being that foolish."

Sylvia puffed her cheeks in discontent.



"Uwah....."

It was the inn that Sylvia said she was staying at, but the moment I got inside, I became dumbfounded.

Chandeliers, armor and helmets meant for admiration, many works of art such as paintings.

And then, the central staircase meant to be climbed up to the second floor, and the stained glass that was even further above that was beautiful enough to have my breath taken away.

I'm amazed that she could have complaints with something like this.

When we walked on top of the red carpet, two maids appeared from somewhere.

"Some black tea, also, go and call Pamela."

"Certainly."

While handing over her coat and hat to the maid-san that rushed over, Sylvia kept walking without stopping.

"This man's coat is fine. More importantly, there should be a room that isn't being used. Let him use that."

"Certainly."

She stopped the maid-san that tried to take care of my 『Darkness Executioner』 coat and gave her an order.

"I will send a maid later on. Go and rest until then."

Saying that, Sylvia went up the staircase and left.

Rest, huh. Well, today, a lot of things did happen for one day so I am mentally tired. I guess I'll take a small rest just like Sylvia said.

"Dear guest."

"Nn?"

When I looked at the person that called out to me, a maid-san was respectfully lowering her head.

"I am one that serves her Majesty the Empress, known as 『Helena』. I shall be your guide from here on out."

The moment she finished speaking, Helena-san turned around and started ascending the staircase.

So as to not be left behind, I followed after her.

I'm not sure if I should say "as I thought" or not, just as expected, the room that I was lead to had refined upholstery that made it seem like it wasn't an inn.

Chapter 141: Dining Room Conversation

".....Oh?"

Not having anything to do, I lied down on the bed and probably fell asleep before I knew it. Multiple people.....Two, huh. Two people's worth of footsteps were captured in my ears and awoken up my consciousness.

Kon kon, kon kon (Knock knock, knock knock)

When the footsteps stopped in front of the door, a conservative knock sounded four times.

"Tto,Come in."

I put on the 『Darkness Executioner』 overcoat that I took off when I lied down.

"Please excuse me. 『Darkness Executioner』-sama. The preparations for the evening meal have been made. Her Majesty is waiting in the dining hall."

When the door opened, two maid-sans entered the room and lowered their heads. One of them was the one that guided me to the room, Helena-san.

.....Still, how should I say this.....I wonder if they could stop with that 『Darkness Executioner』-sama thing. I'll die from shame.

"I, I got it."

When I answered with a low voice so as to have my emotions not understood as much as possible, I got up from the bed that I was sitting on and left the room.

"I shall lead you there."

Helena-san walked in front of me and guided the way.

When I went and followed her, the other maid went into the room that I had been led into.

"She is the bed-maker maid."

The guiding Helena-san answered. Heeh, a bed-maker is that, right? The person that fixes things like the bed's wrinkles. Didn't they only do that in the mornings in places like hotels?Huh? Now that I think about it, did I ask that to Helena-san?

"『Darkness Executioner』-sama, it is because you were looking like you were curious about it."

Ahh, now I see, now I.....Huh?

"The dining hall is on the first floor."

.....Well, whatever.

I followed Helena-san who was walking without half of her body going up and down at all.



"Mu, so you've come."

When the dining hall door was opened, Sylvia was already seated in her chair.

Having changed into a sky-blue dress, since it seemed that Sylvia had put on a bit of make-up, she was normally beautiful but that polished her even more, making her fascinatingly beautiful.

Though, since it's embarrassing, I won't say that out loud.

No, let's put that aside for now. Right now, the role imposed on me is—

"Kiki, you have finally come, my master."

To figure out how to react to this bloodsucking little girl that was elegantly drinking wine.

Do I safely make a tsukkomi? No, my pride as a performer won't allow that. Is this where I just go along with it? No no, this is where I should make a raging tsukkomi after making a falling reaction joke and.....—

"Why are you here, Paimon?"

I just safely made a tsukkomi. Properly thinking about it, I'm not a performer after all.

"Can you not tell just from looking? I am drinking wine. Ahh, this aroma, how it goes down the throat.....Luscious! This is quite luscious, Princess Knight!"

Paimon was making an expression of ecstasy with wine in one hand. We were strangely not playing conversation catch.[1]

"I was surprised, Yuu. To think that you had made a master and servant contract with a True Ancestor Vampire."

"Eh? Ahh, yup. Pretty much."

It's because Paimon the adult version was an boing-chan that was to my liking, is something that I won't say even if my mouth were to be ripped open!

"Well, let us leave the talk for later. Yuu, sit where you like."

"Roger that."

I sat down in the chair that was near Sylvia who was sitting in the seat of honor. Opposite of me was the wine drinking Paimon.

"Now then, let us have our meal."

When I sat down in my chair, Sylvia rang the bell that she had on hand.

When it rang with a *chirin chirin* sound that was pleasant to the ear, the dining hall door opened, several maid-sans entered and headed to the table.

In their hands were tableware and food served on plates, and it was all laid out.

"Is the True Ancestor Princess fine with just wine?"

When Sylvia asked that as if to make a confirmation, Paimon made a small nod.

"Kiki, to do something as free myself from my master's wishes and drink blood, my pride would not allow it."

When her emptied glass was refilled with wine by a maid-san, she once again took a sip of that wine, and softened her expression.

"Yuu.....Come to think of it, you didn't drink wine."

"Not just wine, but alcohol in general."

Because I was still a minor, wasn't the reason, but I just couldn't understand the merits or demerits of alcohol.

"Ah, I just remember from mentioning alcohol. I met with Gilley-ossan, over in Lizwadia. He had opened an inn."

I remembered that I got drunk and got a hangover. Dammit, the next time I meet him, I'll get even with him.

"Hou, so Gilley was in Lizwadia."

"Yeah. Also, in Be Io, I met with Jean, and in Nordyord, I met with Fiona. "

I took it upon myself to not mention the thing with Zephyr.

"I see.....Everyone, it is great to hear that they are doing well."

Sylvia made a whole faced smile looking like she was feeling nostalgic. Most likely, three years ago, after I left, since Sylvia had become Empress, she probably no longer had the chance to meet them. It looked like she was relieved to know that the companions that we overcame danger with in order to defeat the Demon Lord were all in good health.

"Have you all never gathered together?"

"Fiona often sends me letters but....."

"They're nothing but guys that go at their own pace after all. Jean especially."

"Fufufu, indeed."

Maybe because they had finished setting the table while I was talking with Sylvia, the maid-sans bowed and left the dining hall.

"Your current journey, how is it?"

"How you ask.....Well, I'm having fun with it."

Though, I do get dragged into some troublesome stuff over and over again.

"They aren't to the same extent as before, but they're lively."

"Your companions?"

"Yeah. There is this girl that is a Sister (nun) and fires Magic Guns, a therianthrope that is like a ninja, and then this Vampire Princess."

"That is quite the strong line up."

Now that I mention it, the guys from three years ago were also strong to the point that they wouldn't lose or fall behind anyone.

"Also, right now, I'm also together with those Three Stooge Pirates."

"Three Stooge Pirates?Ahh, those people that called themselves the 『Black Rose Pirates』.They are criminals, aren't they?"

To be able to remember with just a little bit of thought, it must be a difference in our memory ability. Sylvia looked at me with reproachful eyes. Does it seem like I became an accomplice to a crime to her?

"We only got them to give a ride on their airship. It was for transportation."

".....Fufu, I see. They all seem to be quite pleasant companions. They should be lively. And what are those companions doing now? Are you in the middle of acting separately?"

"Yeah, Kuon is going to participate in the tournament and said that she would go and do those procedures, and Bernadette said she had some kind of business and— —"

Just as I started talking about that, I remembered something that I had completely forgotten about.

"Sylvia, what time is it right now."

"Nn? It's already past the evening hour but....."

Crap, this is bad!

"I totally forgot that we were supposed to meet up!"

A few hours later, having reached the rendezvous spot, I was made to listen to all of Kuon's complaints.

Translator's Notes:

[1] He means that their conversation wasn't connecting.

Chapter 142: The Incident at the Demon Castle (Before)

The bottom of a dark, deep hole.

The world of darkness that was full of harmful energies that corroded the Saint and became the food of evil spirits.

It was not the world where apostles and God reigned, nor was it the world where humans ruled over demi-humans.

That's right, this place was where the beings of evil prevailed, Makai.

It was a world where the sky was covered with dark clouds, and the land was polluted with blood and poison swamps.

In that repulsive world, that structure was different.

It was something that was beautiful to the point that one's hair would stand on end, yet gave a precise image of death to those that see it.

Formerly the Demon Castle that the Demon Lord reigned over, it is a jet black castle whose lord was sealed by the 『Bearer』 three years ago.

『Demon Castle Solomon』.

In the deepest part of it, a black shadow squirmed about.

"Fufufu.....Though this is the second time, it has gone quite well if I do say so myself."

That thing that wore a robe to make it look like a shadow was a heretic Mazoku that did not join the Six Blade Generals despite possessing Duke-class

power.

It was the former Human that, long ago, was enchanted by the radiance of the souls of people and fell into heresy, Umbra.

That body that could be dimly seen from his robe had turned into white bone, and it was understood that Umbra was a Living Dead that was able to move despite having his flesh rotten and fallen off.

"Leaving the soul behind and taking only body out from this firm seal.....Most likely, it isn't possible for anyone besides me."

The deepest part of the Demon Castle, the Throne Room.

Gazing at the existence that sat upon that throne, Umbra nodded seeming satisfied.

"And then.....What do you plan on doing with that body?"

From the darkness, a flame suddenly flared up and in the next instant, a girl with red hair that looked like it was on fire appeared in the Throne Room.

The color of her skin was blue, her eyes were golden, and horns were growing from her head.

It was the Mazoku woman that could freely manipulate flames, Agniera.

And then, that Agniera alternately glared at the shadow of a person that sat on the throne and Umbra.

"Though, dependin' on the matter and circumstances.....I might have no choice but ta completely burn up yer existence, got it?"

Agniera talked without energy, but what was released from that gaze of hers was unmistakably a thirst for blood.

"Fufufu.....That would be troubling."

Compared to Umbra who was fearlessly making a *Kutsukutsu* laugh, Agniera was became more ill-humored the more the time passed.

"However, since this is also something that I cannot fail to do for the fulfillment of my dearest desire....."

"So if it's fer the sake of your dearest desire, it's alright ta fiddle around with the "Demon Lord's" body? ——Don't fuck with me, ya defective failure."

Her angry appearance was like that of a raging fire, that Agniera was feared by the humans as such, but now, she was quietly, and cool-headedly angry.

That's right, the "something" that sat on the throne was without a doubt the figure of the Demon Lord that Agniera knew of.

"I didn't like ya, and I thought that I wouldn't ever like ya, but ta think that ya had gone this far. You, just die already."

Having produced a halberd of flames, Agniera slowly started walking towards Umbra.

Umbra and Agniera, although they are in the same Duke-class level, there was a world of difference in their true strength.

To begin with, the court rank of the Mazoku wasn't simply about the person's strength, but was an approximation of how much military force they possessed.

Therefore, there were weak Mazoku even though they had a high court rank, and there were many without a court rank even though they were strong.

However, only the Duke-class had beings that greatly deviated from that framework.

They could bring down a country alone, they could change the terrain alone.....Being a match for a thousand, their individual existences themselves were worth an army corps.

On the other hand, Umbra himself did not possess that sort of strength.

Although he had transcended being a Human, he was much too weak to be a Duke-class.

Well then, why was Umbra considered to be a Duke-class?

"Fufufu....., scary, scary. It looks like it cannot be helped.....Reincarnation."

That was because the military force that Umbra possessed was a level or two different compared to the other Mazoku.

A low-ranked Mazoku was ten units, and a high-ranked Mazoku was several hundreds of units, but in contrast with that, the military force that Umbra was in possession of easily surpassed one hundred million.

When Umbra raised up one hand, a lump that looked like a black shadow had changed into a physical substance had appeared in the space between Agniera and Umbra.

The shadow, at the beginning, was small, but it "took in" something and started to swell.

"Hmph....."

Seeing that, Agniera's reaction was something plain. Even that strong spirit that made her try to do a fair and square fight didn't come gushing forth.

Agniera stopped walking, and swung her flame halberd as if trying to mow something down.

When she did, flames flared up, and a flame ran towards Umbra like a snake that crawled on the ground.

In an instant, the shadow ran, and obstructed that flame.

".....Heeh"

The corners of Agniera's mouth lifted up.

That shadow had the shape of a person.

With black armor that was made to be easy to move in despite being a full plate armor, and holding a spear that easily surpassed its height in one hand, it was a figure that seemed like a knight.

"Fufufu.....This is a pawn that I prepared for anti-Hero use but, is it to your liking?"

Agniera replied to the fearlessly laughing Umbra with silence.

However, that facial expression of hers was that of a wolf that discovered new prey.

When Agniera, who suddenly became motivated, took her stance, that black knight also prepared its spear.

And then, with a space of a few seconds opening up, right when Agniera was about to break out into a run, a voice went into Agniera's ears and made her stop.

"What might you be doing, Agniera."

"Aquadine.....This doesn't concern you."

The Mazoku woman with beautiful blue hair that seemed like it was flowing and possessed horns like that of a sheep, Aquadine had made her appearance.

Being called out by someone in front of her new toy, Agniera's mood went bad all at once.

"That isn't the case at all. There are many things that I need Umbra to do for me. He doesn't have the time to be occupied with the likes of you."

Aquadine said that with an admonishing tone, but maybe because that irritated her instead, Agniera's facial expression became even more stern.

"Ah? You sayin' that you're interruptin' my actions?"

"I'm telling you to not get in my way, you muscle brain."

".....Kill. I'm going to kill you, Aquadine."

"Hah, saying "kill, kill" whenever you open your mouth, you really don't amount to much."

In response to Agniera who created another flame halberd and took a stance with both hands, Aquadine laughed without preparing a weapon.

"—Die"

The moment she was about to start running with her flame halberd at the ready,

"!?"

A flash of lightning ran over Agniera's head.

".....You, Tonitrus!!"

Having defended against that lightning with her halberd, Agniera roared. Having her fight obstructed twice, Agniera's mood had fallen to its worst.

"Affirmative, my name is Tonitrus."

Making a *bachiri* (electric spark) sound, that Mazoku made his appearance.

The one horned Mazoku, Tonitrus. He was the Mazoku that boasted of being the fastest.

Chapter 143: The Incident at the Demon Castle (After)

"Tonitrus, looks like today's the day ya wanna be knocked down, huh."

Flames were being emitted from Agniera's body. The Demon Lord's castle, its Throne Room was engulfed in flames in an instant.

"Nay. You should not say things you cannot do, Flam."

Compared to that, Tonitrus expressionlessly provoked Agniera.

"Now ya've gone and said it."

Their sharpened bloodlusts clashed.

Agniera with a flame halberd, Tonitrus with a thunder spear clad in lightning in hand, they pointed the tips of their weapons at each other.[1]

Agniera and Tonitrus were preparing for their prey and were facing each other.

"Here I go, Tonitr—"

Seething with bloodlust, Agniera was about to start running.

At her back, lightning "fell".

"I go forth."

Muttering that phrase, Tonitrus who had appeared at Agniera's back swung his thunder spear.

"♪!! Rraahh!!"

Having her back taken, although she clicked her tongue, Agniera raised the corners of her mouth, and, together with a yell, swung down her flame halberd.

Gakin!! (Clang!!)

A thunderous roar where even its vibrations could be felt resounded in the Throne Room.

".....Splendidly done."

"Speed is my specialty field too."

In spite of obtaining the advantage of attacking from the back, Tonitrus' spear was broken by Agniera's swung down halberd.

"In that case....."

The broken spear made a *bachin* (electric spark) sound and vanished in one moment, and in the next moment, a new thunder spear was grasped in Tonitrus' hand.

"Which one of us is superior....."

Don!! (Bam!!)

A glint, and then a thunderous roar.

The thrust of the thunder spear that was fired with a speed that left sound behind easily exceeded Agniera's perception speed and went through her body, causing Agniera's body to literally flying back from the impact.

"is what ya want to decide.....is that it?"

Gou!! (Boom!!)

A scorching hot wind that felt like one would get burned just from touching it gently brushed Tonitrus' cheek.

In an instant, Agniera who should have been blown away made a violent attack from Tonitrus' back.

The blown away Agniera was an illusion that the flames had displayed.

".....Affirmative!"

Having been expressionless, Tonitrus' cheeks faintly slackened.

When he bended half of his body to avoid the attack from behind by a hair's width, the moment he turned around, Tonitrus drove the butt end of his spear into the crown of Agniera's head.

"Somethin' like that, won't stop me ORAH!!"

Getting acquainted with Agniera's forehead, a thick sound resounded.

However, Agniera didn't stop, changed the halberd she held with both hands into flames, put that onto her fists, and struck him.

"!!Splendidly done."

"Is that all ya can say, ya bastarddd!!"

Tonitrus had created a magic barrier in an instant and defended against the flames, but seeing as how the promptly developed barrier had insufficient defensive power, he bore a large burn on this stomach.

Even while receiving each other's attacks, Agniera and Tonitrus' attacks did not stop, and the thunder spear and flames produced great damage to the surroundings.

"Good grief, they sure can fight while looking like they are enjoying themselves."

Erasing the flames that were literally leaping with a barrier of water, Aquadine breathed a sigh sounding amazed.

".....I've decided. That plan, I'll have Flam go as well."

"Oya, are you alright with that?"

Umbra picked up Aquadine's muttering.

"I don't know how she will move, aren't you the one who said that?"

"Restricted to the first step of the plan, Flam's personality will prove useful. After all, acting violently for no reason is the objective."

With a chuckle, Aquadine laughed.

"I see.....Well then, this time it will be my black knight and Flam, and Tonitrus-dono, correct?"

"Take along some low grade Mazoku as well."

"At your will.....Kihih, kihihihih!!"

Making a small nod, Umbra sunk down as if melting into the shadows together with an eerie laughter, and erased his appearance.

If it was seen, the figure of the black knight that Umbra had brought along also suddenly vanished.

(That damned Umbra.....It doesn't reach Flam's level, but to think that he was preparing a pawn that was reaching Duke-class level.....It might be around time where it's better to get rid of him.)

Aquadine harbored a shudder from the black knight that had defended against Agniera's attack a little while ago.

Although she only caught a glimpse of its appearance and a fragment of its power, she understood just how high that black knight's abilities were. After all, that black knight had defended against and stopped Agniera's blow who rivaled the fastest Duke-class, Tonitrus.

For Mazoku, the existence called Duke-class was an existence that boasted a an absolute strength that was outside of common sense.

Even ordinary Mazoku possessed abilities that surpassed that of humans, and lived for an eternity of time.

Among such creatures, the Duke-class were existences that were called monsters, were feared, and were at the top.

In spite of that, that black knight displayed the ability to simply stop the attack from Agniera who was one of those top Duke-class.

That attack that left behind sound and possessed a speed as if it were a sparkling flash, it had defended against and stopped it.

(No, until the Demon Lord has revived, I shall make effective use of him..... Both Umbra, and that black knight.)

They still had utility value.

When she thought such, Aquadine's worry moved onto Agniera and Tonitrus.

"Oraoraorarararaahhh!!"

"Splendidly done.....However, it is still slow.....!!"

The tips of the spear and halberd clashed. Their rivaling powers produced a rebound, making their reciprocal specialized weapons repel back. They fixed their stances with monstrous speed, and once they did, they fired an instant death thrust. But, that attack once again clashed.

The tips blurred, the impact shook the atmosphere, and the weapons continued.

Now then, how should these two be stopped.

Aquadina breathed a small sigh.

Translator's Notes:

[1] I am not sure if there is a weapon name for what Tonitrus uses. Here is the original: 雷槍

Chapter 144: The Preceding Hero and the Refreshing Pretty Boy Morning

"Good morning, Yuu."

"....."

When I opened my eyes from waking up, the smile of a blonde haired, refreshing-type Pretty Boy filled up most of my field of vision.

Just what kind of torture is this.

"Oh my, it seems that your mood isn't all that great. You're making an awful face that looks like you bit into something sour, you know?"

"And whose fault is that, whose?"

When I tried to get up, the blonde Pretty Boy took several steps back.

"Just what do you want from me?"

"It's nothing~, I thought I'd give you a refreshing waking in this refreshing morning."

The blonde Pretty Boy, Leonhart Clasion said that with a refreshing smile.

But however, I know that there is one other face beneath this smile.

"You liar, there's definitely something."

"I seem to be quite distrusted, don't I."

"It's because I've suffered terrible damage, you damned criminal."

That's right, this man, Leonhart, a knight of Leezelion, was, contrary to his refreshing appearance, a criminal for which anything goes as long as it's interesting.

"Haha, Yuu, it sure has been a while since I was told that by you."

"I had hoped that you would have fixed that trait of yours in these three years.So? What do you want?"

Having finally awoken from my drowsiness, I put on the 『Darkness

Executioner's coat that was hanging on the coat hanger.

This coat that used a good quality cloth felt good when I wore it. Only if you don't mind its appearance though.

"How does doing some training with Her Majesty after such a long time sound?"

"With Sylvia?"

When I replied with that question, Leo nodded.

"Since it seems that she didn't get that much sleep, she has been swinging her sword since early this morning."

"And so you tell me? Isn't it fine with you, Leo? In actuality, if it's for proper fencing, Leo, you're more skillful, after all."

"Just as I was thinking about what you were going to say.....Yuu, as usual, you really don't understand a maiden's mind."

Although he breathed out a sigh, Leonhart said that sounding like some part of that was amusing.

That, isn't that something that a normal jerk wouldn't say?

"Well then, please think about it the other way. Let's see.....If it's you, Yuu..... What would you do if a beautiful woman with a big butt and chest were to come tempting you late at night?"

"No, well, I would think that I want to be together with them until morning but.....Is a maiden's mind something like that?"

"Both men and women don't differ all that much, especially in regards to love and sexual desire."

I really would like for you to stop with such acrid talk, like sexual desire. Just so you know, I am still 16 after all. Though that does tend to be forgotten!

"Well, I guess it's fine since I don't have anything to do at the moment.....Did you say that she was in the garden?"

"Yes. It's been about ten minutes since she started moving her body. With her

body warmed up, she should be in her best state to be moving her body."

"On one hand, one is in their best condition, and on the other hand, one just woke up. I really think that is too much of a difference."

"Oya, I didn't realize that at all."

Liar, it's this guy we're talking about, he obviously came to wake me up right at the time that Sylvia was finishing up.

Well, it's fine. It's not like we're going to do a killing match where a moment's mistake would invite death. Let's just have a light exchange of blows.

"Well then, I guess we should go."

Arranging my equipment, I left the room that I stayed in for the night.



"Wow"

Coming out to the courtyard, what spread out before my eyes was a shocking spectacle that made me involuntarily take a step back.

"Mu?Ohh, so it's Yuu. What are you doing up so early in the morning?"

Sylvia was wearing clothes that looked like a camisole and denim pants which prioritized the ease of movement. And on top of that, she also had gauntlets on both hands.

"No, rather, the question is about what's up with you.....What are you doing?"

"Can you not tell just by looking? I am doing some training with my Imperial Guards."

In the area surrounding Sylvia, who looked quite indifferent, soldiers wearing armor were collapsed all over the place.

Of course they were alive, but maybe because they were beaten up, the soldiers were groaning.

It's kind of like, it's a spectacle that can be described as a picture of hell or pandemonium.

"Now then, all that is left is.....Mu? I do not see Leo's figure anywhere. Even though I said that we would have a bout once I was done.....Well, it is fine. Yuu, if you have some spare time, could you accompany me for a bit?"

When she said that, Sylvia pointed the tip of a short sword whose blade wasn't smashed at me. That facial expression was truly brisk. She didn't look like an Empress that beat up her own Imperial Guard.

Still, that jerk Leo, I do think that he would do this but he woke me up because he thought it was pain to be Sylvia's opponent, didn't he?

"Yeah—, I'm fine with that."

Since I had intended on mixing in a battle from the start, I made a light nod, and I took out my green and blue, male and female pair of crystal swords.

"Hou, Magic Swords, are they."

"You can tell?"

I could also tell if an opponent's specialized weapon was a Magic Sword or not if we were exchange blows. However, I couldn't see through it with just a single glance.

"I cannot go as far as tell what the contents are but.....The technique formula is hedged into it."

Of course I can't see it, but I've heard that in this world, there are guys that possess eyes that can perceive things that ordinary people can't see. And Sylvia is probably one of those people.

"It is not a Magic Eye, you know? It is most likely the work of my blood."

"I see, I can agree with that."

Sylvia and Alicia, the Leezelion royalty seems to have succeeded Spirit blood.

One of the reasons why they are called a magic major power is without a doubt that.

"Now then.....It's been a while since we have exchanged blows but, your skills have not grown dull, correct?"

Sylvia shook the point of the sword and provoked me. I think that me seeing her as enjoying herself is a misunderstanding of mine.

"I was separated from the sword for three years, but ever since I came back here, I was never troubled with looking for a place to swing my sword. Even if it has fallen, I don't think that it's gotten that bad."

"I see.....Well then, let us go!"

When she said that, Sylvia performed a Shukuchi while still pointing the tip of the short sword at me.

By using Maryoku to do my move of 『kicking the ground, and shortening the distance with the opponent in a single step』, which I do forcibly with my body's abilities, making it possible for even ordinary people to do is what 『Shukuchi』 is.

It's also a tactic that Sylvia thought out for the sake of the fierce fights with the Mazoku.

Using Shukuchi, Sylvia drew near me with a speed that I was just barely able to perceive.

"!"

Even when I swung my sword with good timing against that, Sylvia perfectly stopped at an interval where my sword could barely reach her.

"Hou, so this is the interval."

Sudden acceleration and sudden standstill through the use of 『Shukuchi』. I see, going through my enemies, there wasn't an opponent that was this troublesome.

"Your specialized weapon shouldn't have changed either!"

When I took a step in to expand my twin swords' interval, Sylvia conversely filled in that interval.

Giin!! (Metallic clash!!)

My blue treasured sword and her rapier struck each other, and a metallic sound reverberated.

Chapter 145: The Preceding Hero and the Public Bath

1

People, no matter who they are, are dream chasers that chase after dreams. Embracing dreams is people's nature.

Therefore.....—

"Beyond here.....It is there."

There are no people that stop people that are pursuing their dreams.

"A spectacle.....That no one has ever seen before, and, one that has been longed for....."'

A man is climbing up a wall.

Little, little, little by little. That progress is something small. However, as if to say that he doesn't know how to give up, the man desperately continues to climb.

A precipitous cliff, little by little, he continues to climb that wall where it's difficult to even get a grip on it.

The skin on his fingers feel like it'll tear at any time.

But the man continues to climb.

In order, to seize his dream.

"....."'

However, even in uncertainty, that wall, which stands at attention, hinders the man's advances.

That already hard to climb wall, after a certain time, becomes super flat to the point that hands slip.

""....."

The man's extended hand slip, his posture is broken, and he falls.

Bassha~n!! (Splash!!)

There was water ahead of where he had fallen, so he slapped onto the water's surface, and although a waterspout rose up, it was not something that

had anything to do with the man's life and death.

Because he had fallen starting with his face, it was at the level of some prickling pain on his face.

"Damn it, even though it was just a little bit more!"

The man pulled his face out from the water and stood up.

The wall that he had been climbing until just a few seconds ago, was covered in a dense fog and couldn't be seen all that well.

"To think that they wouldn't put a rat blocker but a peeping blocker there.....♪"

Anguish appeared on the man's face.

Slamming into a wall that great effort could do nothing about, this time, he could only resign.

".....Even so, even so, I will..... ! "

But the man extended his hands out once again.

The man knew of nothing but to advance.

"I won't give up on my dream (the women's bath)!"

The man, Yashiro Yuu started to climb that wall once again.

Seeking the spectacle of his dream (the woman's bath) that he still had not fulfilled.



"Yuu, do you want to go and have a morning bath?"

Her white skin, maybe because it carried some heat, was a bit red, and her breath had slightly shorter intervals than usual.

Shedding sweat on her cheek, Sylvia wiped the sweat on her face with a towel that she was handed by a maid and made that proposal.

"A morning bath?Eh, that's fine but, what? Is it a mixed bath? Are we going in together? Just the two of us?"

Man—, certainly, I knew that Sylvia thought about me without hating me, but to think that she would take that first step and turn it into that kind of relationship. Once I thought that, Sylvia's face went bright red and she started shouting.

"Wha, stu, there is no way that would happen, you fool!"

"Well, I mean, it's because you asked if I wanted to go and have a morning

bath."

Damn it, what a short-lived joy.

"Good grief.....There are public baths in this town of Galarie, you see. And it would seem that there are tourists that visit with that as the purpose."

"So people come just to enter a bath?"

"It is not like I have seen it directly myself, but it seems that it is beautiful, as well as vast enough that one would not even consider it a bath. The public bath is something sacred in the Ulquiorra Faith after all. It is said that some of the deeply religious ones would settle down on this land from how comfortable the baths are."

In the Holy Ulquiorra Faith, it seems that the first generation saintess was a matchless bath lover. Because of that, baths are surprisingly regarded as sacred or something.

"Come to think of it, I haven't gone into a bath since I came into this world....."

In this world, a bath enters the category of being a luxury item. It's common knowledge that you would only be given a bucket of hot water and a towel at the inns after all.

"Well then, I guess we should go."

I'm also a Japanese person. Let's get enjoy having a bath after such a long time. Afterwards, Sylvia and I, taking along several escorts, were headed to Galarie's public baths but,

"Is it alright to not take Leo along?"

The three escorts that Sylvia chose were all female. So that the three Imperial Guard Knights wouldn't stand out, they only had light armor that covered their chests, gauntlets, and were armed with a sword.

"It is because he has the position that leads the Imperial Guard corps."

"And the real reason is?"

"It will definitely turn into something troublesome if we take him along."

"That's true—"

She must have been teased by Leo, who is a criminal that takes delight in seeing people's reactions to his crimes, at times that I didn't know about. He really hasn't changed from three years ago.

"What, although they do not reach Leo's level, these people are quite skilled. Be at ease."

When Sylvia praised them, the three Imperial Guard Knights proudly puffed out their chests. Ohh, their chests that are hidden by light armor went *tayun* (jiggle) and shook!

Ability aside, in the size of their chests, it's Sylvia's loss.

"Just now, a sign of rudeness was....."

Concerning the matter of how sharp the intuition of the female camp that is surrounding me.

"L, let's hurry up and go to the public baths or whatever, Sylvia!"

She might notice that I was making a hard look at the chests of the three attendants. Because of that, I tried making a voice that had a somewhat invigorated impression to it.

"Fufu, what an impatient fellow. Well, wait a second, right now.....It would seem that he has come."

Sylvia took her gaze off of me. When I looked at where her gaze had gone to, I saw a young boy that was a couple years younger than us running towards us.

"So it's Marco."

That's right, it was the kid that stole my wallet, Marco.

"He is originally a resident of this town after all. I wanted to ask about the bath manners, you see."

"Manners? Like "don't swim"?"

"I think that swimming in the bath is questionable as a person before it is a problem with manners though?"

"I think that wanting to swim once you enter a vast bath is part of the nature of people."

I won't swim at times where there are other people, but at times when I'm alone in it, I would definitely swim.

"Your Highness-nee-cha~n!"

Marco found Sylvia and came running while waving his hand.

"Marco, we have been waiting for you!"

In response to that, Sylvia also waved back.

At that moment, I could tell that the atmosphere of Sylvia's three attendants had hardened. It didn't show on their faces, but they probably had some thoughts on how Marco had taken an overly familiar attitude to Sylvia who was the Empress.

Huh? Come to think of it, it feels like that kind of thing didn't happen to me, who has been utterly over-familiar with her.....Is it because I'm treated like a house guest?

"Sorry, you Highness-nee-chan, the place has been awfully crowded today, ya see. Well, I got that everyone was excited because the final preliminary round was bein' fought, but it was more than I thought."

"Do not mind it, Marco.Now then, seeing as how Marco has come, let us head out immediately."

When I nodded to Sylvia who was looking at me, Sylvia cheerfully smiled and started walking.

Chapter 146: The Preceding Hero and the Public Bath

2

The public bath in question was right on the border when you continue down the land route from the center of the town and bump into the gondola's landing place.

The building's height was about that of a three story building, but its width was so big that you could say that it could encompass the Tokyo Dome.

"It's damn huge, oi."

"It's this Galarie's number two special attraction, you know? That's only natural!"

The guide and manner instructor Marco puffed up his chest with pride.

I guess he was happy that his home town was praised.

"Incidentally, what's number one?"

"Of course, it's obviously the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration, Nii-chan!"

Certainly, although it's only once a year, it's a fight to determine the world's strongest, so it's probably only natural to get fired up over it.

By the way, right now, I'm not wearing the 『Darkness Executioner』 overcoat.

After all, Sylvia had brought along a small number of escorts so as to not stand out, so that would be meaningless if I were to stand out.

Besides, I don't want to enter the bath looking like that.

"Now then, let's go inside, your Highness-nee-chan."

When he said that, Marco smoothly ran through the crowd of people.

How should I say this, he's a guy that has good control over his body.

"Fufu, what is the point of a guide leaving behind his group."

While making a wry smile, Sylvia advanced through without opposing the waves of people.

"Let us go as well, Yashiro-sama."

One of the escorts glanced over at me.

"Yeah, I guess we should."

I nodded and continued on so as to follow after Sylvia.

When we passed through a large entrance that looked like even a tall Ogre-type Demi-human could enter, we came out into a place that looked like a vast

lobby.

When I looked around, there were several shops, and guests that seemed to have come out from the baths were drinking beverages that were in bottles.

"Wait, that tawny but white drink.....Could it be, coffee milk!?"

"Kouhii? Your wrong, Nii-chan, that's called yukijiru."

By yukijiru, could you mean Snow Br^[1].....The one that introduced this was absolutely a Japanese person!

"Hou.....How about we try drinking some."

Seeing the guests that were drinking the coffee milk like it was delicious, Sylvia took out her purse from her pocket.

"You can't, your Highness-nee-chan! That's something you drink after getting out of the bath!"

I guess coffee milk after getting out of the bath is still the strongest even in another world.

"Is that so.....I look forward to that. Well the, I suppose we should separate into two groups."

"I don't really mind going in together though?"

"As if that would be fine, you fool."

"It, it was just a joke."

When I said it was a joke (half serious), I was glared at with scornful eyes by Sylvia. She's only grown up enough to not immediately fire magic at me, I suppose I should say that. You're saying that I, who thinks of nothing but perverted stuff, hasn't grown up? It's fine because perverted things are my identity!

"What should we do about the time to get out of the bath?"

"Let's see.....There is still some time until noon so, about two koku should be fine."

Since one koku is approximately 30 minutes, it's one hour.

"Roger that, Sylvia."

"Umu. Well then, until later."

"Ou."

When she said that, Sylvia took the other three women and walked to the entrance with the ♀ marked curtain on it.

"Come on, Nii-chan. The men's bath is this way."

"Gotcha."

I forcibly turned my feet that were anxious to go to the women's bath if I were to be unconscious of it to the men's bath.

When I follow Marco and passed through the curtain, I saw a counter with many shelves with locks placed on them lined up and looked like lockers at the back.

"There are several people over there with the same appearance, right?"

Marco didn't point his finger but moved his chin to point them out.

"Yeah, are they the employees here?"

"After you put your clothes and valuables into a basket and hand it over to them, they'll take care of it."

When he said that, Marco grabbed a nearby basket, took off his shoes and clothes, and put them in that basket.

"Take care of this."

"Ohh, so it's you, Marco. Here ya go."

When Marco, who became naked in an instant, stood on this tiptoes and put his basket on the counter, a glasses-wearing employee accepted the basket and gave some kind of wooden token to Marco in exchange. When I took a closer look, that token had a string going through it.

"And that is?"

"This has the number of your own luggage written on it."

"I see, if you hand that over after getting out of the bath, you'll get your luggage returned to you, right?"

Just as I learned from Marco, I took a basket and put the clothes I was currently wearing and my fourth dimensional pouch in the basket.

"Uwah,Nii-chan, yer amazing when ya strip."

Seeing my naked body, Marco's face went pale. That's not unreasonable. I don't want to brag, but I'm actually a hidden macho. One of those small macho guys? After learning that the guy that he tried stealing a wallet from was actually absurdly muscular after such a long time, he was probably thinking "Thank goodness it didn't turn into a serious matter".

However, there are strong guys in this world even if they're guys with slender lines. Let's see.....The 『Witch of Time Norn』, aka Baba-chan, is a good example. Baba-chan's body has the appearance of a little girl almost identical to Lililuri.

But despite that, even if I were to fight her head-on with a sword, I wouldn't be able to win.

As for why that was the case, there was the fact that she had more experience, but frankly, it was her body strengthening through magic.

Body Strengthening Magic is a magic that brings forth a huge effect while being easy to do.

The action can greatly change by the ability of a practiced hand, but it can make a baby that learned the magic able to break a rock with its fist. If I were to say that, you should be able to understand just how terribly useful it is.

Therefore, it is not good to discriminate only by a person's outward appearance.

"Stop it already, okay? Even for a slender guy, if they were to use magic, they would be able to get an easy victory over an ordinary person."

"Hahaha, I'll engrave that into my spirit."

Marco laughed with a dry voice.

"Please take care of this."

"Ah, oka~y. Dear customer, is this your first time?"

When I placed the basket on the counter, the glasses-wearing employee came rushing over. Because there were guests other than us, it looked like it was busy.

"It's my first time but I heard about how to enter the water from Marco."

"Hee, then that's a relief. He's a regular customer here, you see. Enough that we sometimes ask him to do some cleaning jobs."

I knew it from their conversation earlier but they're surprisingly close, or rather, they look like friends.

"Then I'll just do a light explanation. You can enter the baths here for free. Keep the baths clean, keep your body clean, and hijinks are prohibited. I guess that's about it."

Only the hijinks part was said awfully strongly. I guess it happens often.

"Got it."

"If it looks like you're going to get rolled up in some hijinks, I suggest that you get out of the bath. Well then, by all means, please do go and relax."

Tying the string of the token I was handed on my wrist, I turned towards the baths. When I looked around, Marco had already gone ahead of me.



"I wonder if Yuu has already gotten in."

With a towel wrapped around her body in the women's locker room, Sylvia, who had her hair tied up, was currently about to head to the baths.

"Are you worried about Yashiro-sama?"

One of the female knights that Sylvia brought along as escorts asked that of Sylvia, who was her master, while her cheeks slackened.

"Is that bad, ?"

Sylvia said that, sounding sulky.

In response to that, the female knight shook her head while expressing a smile.

"No—pe, not at all!"

"Rather, I want you to keep on showing that."

"Me too—"

The three female knights boisterously made a racket. That appearance of theirs right now was greatly different from the attendant-like appearance that they displayed when Yuu was around.

"I mean, he is Sylvia-sama's sweetheart, isn't he—! Though, he isn't a prince on a white horse."

"Well, his appearance is pretty ordinary after all....."

"He was totally staring at my boobs—"

"I know, right! Yashiro-sama is just how he is in Lord Eustace's stories."

"With an appearance that is ordinary, he's lewd and vulgar. But he is a hero that possesses master-class sword technique."

"He was on par with her Majesty—"

Sylvia breathed a sigh at the three that were boisterously making a racket.

"Good grief.....I should not have had that match in front of everybody.....What am I saying."

Sylvia unintentionally muttered that from the three knights' reaction, and then breathed another sigh at the words that came out from an emotion that resembled jealousy.

".....Nn?"

As Sylvia wrapped the token's string around her arm and headed to the baths, a small figure of a person went by in front of her.

"An Elf?"

It was a very young Elf girl.

That bright green-haired little Elf girl made a quick glance at Sylvia and continued walking just like that.

".....It couldn't be."

In those eyes, even though they possessed a sharpness that didn't match that figure, Sylvia caught a glimpse of the 『Witch of Time』 who was her teacher in magic.

Translator's Notes:

[1] By entering ユキジル in Google and looking at the kanji option, Snow Brand Milk Products comes up.

Chapter 147: The Preceding Hero and the Six Arms

"Uwaah.....It's kinda—, pointlessly vast."

What spread out beyond the sign curtain that I passed through was a whole bunch of half-naked guys that had towels wrapped around their waists, and a number baths of various sizes that made me think that the number of them easily passed twenty.

Among the large ones, I saw that one had a bridge placed in the center of the bath. It was as if it was a pool at a leisure facility. It was disappointing that there wasn't a waterslide.

"It's because there are 27 baths putting the large and small ones together." Marco boastingly said that.

"When there's that much, it seems like it isn't just a few of them that aren't used."

"True, there are some on the edge that don't get many, but even so, there aren't any that don't get used at all."

That's pretty incredible.

"Now then, let's wash our bodies already and get in."

"Ou."

In the manners of this world, it seems that they don't pour hot water on themselves before entering the bath and enter the bath after properly washing their bodies.

Well, since I did something similar in Japan, it isn't that much of a problem.

"Come to think of it, is it alright for us to not have bought stuff like soap?"

Soap is widely distributed in modern Japan and it wouldn't be an exaggeration even if I were to say that there is at least one bar of it in every household, but what if it's a considerably high-class item in this other world of Reynbrook.

Speaking of that, there was a single bar of soap enough for one night at the inn. It was within reach but they probably know that it isn't something for frequent use.

"It's nothing to be surprised about. In here, if it's something provided here, then you can freely use it."

Being led by Marco, when we reached the bath ground's washing area,

surprisingly, there was soap placed on every one of the seats.

"Heeh, how generous."

"Thanks to that, there ain't any dirty guys among the guys that live in this town. Even the guys at the slum quarters are regular customers, all thanks to the Feudal Lord."

What came to my mind was the figure of the Feudal Lord that unfolded a war of words with Sylvia.

I thought he was pretty disagreeable, but to the residents that live in this town, he's a pretty good Feudal Lord.

"At any rate, I sure screwed up. I thought that it wouldn't be too crowded at this time....."

A lot of adults were gathered at the washing area. Intermittently, spots opened up, but we probably would be able to wash our bodies next to each other.

"Well, since we're just washing our bodies, I guess we should separate."

"That's true. Well then, I'm gonna use the one further back. Nii-chan."

When he said that, Marco walked to one of the several lined up washing spots that was further down.

"Now then, I guess I should also hurry up and wash my body so I can enter the bath."

Securing a seat in a spot between two middle-aged Ossans, I twisted the faucet and filled the wash tub with hot water.

When the hot water filled the tub, I lifted up the now heavy tub and poured the hot water on my head.

"♪, fuuu.....Ahh, I don't know how, but I feel good with just this."

Not having the flexibility to enter a bath since I came to this world, the most I could do was wash my body with a towel drenched in hot water.

Maybe because of that, it's hard to believe that I'm getting a pleasant sensation from a bath that I haven't had in so long.

This is happening with just being covered in hot water. I want to hurry up and soak myself up to my shoulders in the bath.

At the time I thought that, nuh, an arm suddenly stretched out from the side.

"Uwah"

"Whoops, 'scuse me for surprisin' you, kiddo. Sorry, but could you lend me that soap?"

Next to me, a man washing his head with both hands had extended his hand towards me. When I looked at him, there wasn't many bubbles on his head, so he probably only had a small amount of soap.

"Ahh, sure."

"Thanks, I'll be borrowin' it for a bit, 'kay?"

While scrubbing his head with both hands, that Ossan grabbed the soap with his opened hand, and bubbled that up.

.....Nn? Even though he was washing his head using both hands, why was there an opened hand?

Suddenly thinking of that question, I stole a glance at the neighboring Ossan.

Nothing in particular other than how big and brawny he—.....Ah, awawawahah. I, I-I-I-I realized something major!

"What is it? There somethin' on my face?"

Noticing my gaze, that man looked at me with a puzzled look. But, my gaze fell onto the man's arms.

"A y-youkai spider man!?"

"Who's a youkai spider man."

There were three sets of left and right arms that had clenched fists of anger, for a total of six arms that went *Guwah* and spread out.

That's right, on this man, there were six arms!

"Eh? Am I wrong?"

"Course you are, fool! I am Zappa of the Asura Tribe!"^[1]

Standing up while having his head covered in bubbles, that man, Zappa named himself as such.

"Asura Tribe?"

Speaking of the Asura Tribe, it seemed that they were a race that had many arms just like their name implies but.....To think that they really had several arms..... I thought that he was a type of monster or youkai.

"What, kiddo. This your first time meetin' someone of the Asura Tribe?"

Pouring the hot water that accumulated in the tub on his head, that Asura Tribesman folded his arms and asked me that sounding amused.

"I apologize for being surprised. I've only heard about you all in conversation."

"Dahahaha! Thought so. We o' the Asura Tribe are a minority after all!"

Maybe because he found something funny, Zappa guffawed.

The Asura Tribe was a minority where all of the members didn't even reach a hundred members.

It is said that they immigrate by moving about the mountain areas and never stay in one location.

Maybe because of their small numbers and their nomadic disposition, there are few that know about the Asura Tribe.

Even for me, when I had just come to this world for the first time, I only learned of their name when I was receiving an explanation on Demi-humans.

However, they really have multiple arms.....I wonder if they ever screw up which arm to move when they need to.

"Still, kiddo, you're pretty tempered, ain't ya."

This time, the guffawing Zappa scrutinized me.

"Ah—, well, I have trained quite a bit after all."

"Quite a bit, huh.....Hn—n"

His arms folded, Zappa made a pensive look. In that gaze, there was something that looked like he was searching for something.

".....Nn? What's that?"

"?"

Zappa looked like he noticed something and took his gaze off me for a bit.

Turning around so as to chase after where that gaze of his had gone—

Paaahnnn!!

Suddenly, an explosive sound resounded in the huge bathing room. All of the two handed customers of the bathing room were surprised by the explosive sound and looked around. But not finding the cause of the sound, it ended with them tilting their heads and wondering what that was.But, only me and Zappa of the Asura Tribe were different.

".....With the Asura Tribe, does it have to become like this until I can't swing my fist?"

I involuntarily wanted to click my tongue from my fist that had a prickling pain.

"Dahahahah.It became like that 'cause I'm covered in thick skin. Like this, your pretense shows in an instant."

While grinning, Zappa of the Asura Tribe rubbed his right hand.

The moment I was lured by Zappa's gaze and showed my back, Zappa's fist fired

at the back of my head.

With it not having any bloodlust, I probably wouldn't have noticed it if not for the wind cutting sound it made.

I promptly repelled that with a back fist.

"I'm Zappa of the Asura Tribe. I had jus' won my way through the preliminaries held in Galarie a little while ago."

Zappa held his hand out with a bold smile.

"Kiddo, you're appearin' there too, righ'?"

Possessing strong confidence, Zappa said that. Most likely feeling that I was a guy that could fight to a certain extent, and from how I was in this town at a time like this, he probably thought that I was participating in the tournament. It would be fine to deny it here but.....He would probably realize it was me the next time we fought even if I was wearing the 『Darkness Executioner』's overcoat. In that case,

".....Yuu Yashiro. Since I'll be concealing my face when fighting in the tournament, it'd really help if you don't call out my name."

It would be best to lay the groundwork without delay so that I don't show my pretenses.

When I gripped back the held out hand, Zappa smiled with a grin.

"Yuuya Shirou, right. I'm lookin' forward to fightin' you in the main competition."

The warrior possessing six arms, Zappa, left behind those words and walked towards the public baths.

".....Haa, now I'm depressed."

In Zappa's case, he probably noticed by chance but, at this rate, it looks like all of the participating competitors will notice. I need to be careful.

Translator's Notes:

[1] The kanji used for Asura was 多腕, and directly translates to multiple arms.

Chapter 148: The Preceding Hero's Equation

After the matter with Zappa of the Asura Tribe, I washed my head and body and then, from among the many public baths, I chose a comparatively small public bath and submerged myself in it.

A huge bath would have been fine as well, but you could say that I personally feel that a small bath suits my nature better.

I said that it was small, but even then, it was vast enough that I wouldn't feel constrained if I were to stretch my body out.

"Fuu....."

Submerging myself in the bath, I slovenly relaxed my limbs.

The heat of the hot water spread throughout my body, and felt pleasant.

I haven't felt this relaxed ever since I came to this world, so a breath spontaneously escaped my mouth.

"Once the tournament is over.....Where should I go?"

With leeway that I haven't had in a while being born, what I suddenly thought of was about what would happen from here on out.

I traveled from Luxeria with my sight on this town of Galarie.

It took me more time than I expected at the beginning, but I was somehow able to reach this town.

As for how it turned from my objective of being a spectator to actually being a participant in the matches is, how should I put it, the badness in my relationships is probably the cause of it.

"Places I have not yet gone to.....Even if I say that, I've already conquered more than half of the world."

Of course, that was in my travels three years ago.

I wandered from place to place all around the world. I haven't felt how vast the world was as much as I did at that time.

Sylvia, Leo and the others were also there, and it was a time where we could go to Leezelion.

It want to go to as many places that I haven't gone to as possible, but to begin with, I don't even know what is in those places. Maybe I can request for some shelter under Sylvia and search for a place to go to while living a freeloading

lifestyle of laziness and freedom.

No, I'm easily able to imagine a Sylvia that would snap from me having a lifestyle of no productivity and start chasing me while swinging her sword about.

I wonder if me embracing a masochistic-like thought of "That also sounds pretty pleasant" is due to the comfortability of the bath. Or could it be because I really am a masochist?

"It's probably the latter."

Rather than attacking girls, I get aroused from being criticized by girls. No, still, if I were asked to do it, I'd be willing to go around to the attacking side.....In other words, I'm a pervert that has no choice but to recognize that he's on both sides.

.....Since it seems like I'm about to unintentionally confess my own inclinations at this rate, and since that would be scary, let's put an end to this topic.

Still, this place is quiet. Even though there are scores of customers, the audible hustle and bustle is far away. I wonder if it's because I'm on the edge of the bathing area. Man, this is truly pleasant.

As I thought, time to enter a bath, being free without being bothered by anyone, needs to be saved. It being peaceful all alone.....

My thoughts were thinking such things, but due to the words that I heard from the other side of the wall, I was pulled out from my sea of thoughts. "Hey, hey, this hot water, do you think it connects to the other side?" I think that those words needlessly dared to cast a hook and raised it up. However, I felt a large impact similar to that time I got hit on the head with a hammer from those words.

"Ehh~, I wonder, who knows."

That was probably a friend, or maybe an acquaintance that reflexively answered without much thought after being asked. It could be said that while it was a halfhearted response, it was also a suitable reply.

But the girl that answered ended there. While it was an appropriate reply, it was nothing but a reply. After all, it's not like she wanted to know.

But I was different. From the words of the woman that entertained that

question, I also entertained the question.

And then I realized it. This hot water that I was currently submerged in, it passed through to the other side by a pipe or something. In other words, the possibility that I was connected to the women's bath existed on the corpuscle level.

Now that I knew that, I could no longer relax in this public bath. My thoughts would once again fall to vulgar and perverted ideas.

You might be disgusted by a male middle school student that thinks of nothing but perverted things, but men are pretty much like that for their entire lives. Having a keen interest in perverted things, he will never forget the first porno that he picked up until the day he dies. That idiocy is the true state of men.

Now then, for gentlemen living in the world for self-protection, speaking of what those that fell to the same level as me would do,

"The drainage, where is the drainage."

I searched for the gate to the country of dreams that connects to the women's bath.

If I'm correct in guessing the process of how the hot water of this bath is connected to the women's bath, the place that it reaches after the drainage is most likely the same.

Reaching that place and running up the drainage that connects to the women's bath is equation to victory that I derived.

However, right when I hit the stage of finding the drainage, I finally realized that I had a technical barrier.

Actually, instead of being technical, it was more of a physical barrier.

Now then, I'm sure that there are some that have noticed already. Naturally, it was "how would I slip into the drainage".

The drainage was originally designed so that it wouldn't suck up a person, and yet be able to suck up large quantities of water.

Whether it be modern Japan, or the public baths of the Free City of Galarie in this other world of Reynbrook, that design of the drainage hasn't changed.

That's right, in the plans that humans designed, the drainage mouth wasn't wide enough for a person to fit in.

For there to be people that read this far ahead and know that I don't have the constitution to alter my body at will like a slime, this couldn't have been made

by ordinary people.

The equation of victory was brittle and crumbled away.

Having been battered by the cruel and dream-less reality, with the mood of wanting to throw anything and everything away, I stretched out my body and floated face up in this public bath that seemed like no one would come to. The saying "Reality and coffee aren't sweet" is quite true. Incidentally, that was a wise saying that I thought up just now and how it has no substance is its charm.

I had fallen into an incomprehensible mental state of thinking "if only I could flow down into the drainage together with the hot water just like this and have a watery grave", but noticing a certain something, I stood up with a splash. Hot water entering my ears felt disgusting. However, I was ecstatic to the point of not caring about that.

That's right, there wasn't only one equation.

The answer was the same, but the path to it, there was a countless number of them.

I realized there was gap between me and the women's bath and the gap between the interrupting wall and the ceiling had a large threshold.

It didn't matter for what sake or for what reason that gap was there for.

Because right now, a threshold that connected to the women's definitely existed.

The new equation to victory that I had just now re-derived was, yes, to peep.

Chapter 149: The Preceding Hero and the Public Bath's Rules

What blocked the way in front of the man that harbored a hope was a literal wall.

With it having almost no places to grab onto, he was unable to even climb it. However, even that wall, wasn't something that couldn't be crossed over. Since the wall seemed to be made out of brick, there were small, thin gaps in between each brick.

"Fightooo."

He thrust his nails into those spots!

While placing all of his body weight onto the nails of his hands and feet, he was able to cling onto the wall. After that, all he had to do is climb.

"Ippaaaaahh!?"

But, he fell.

When he put power into his nails, his fingertips curled up and, *garih*, scratched the brick, and from there he fell.

"~, that was close.....Still, to think that it would take all my might just to climb." Fortunately, since this happened when he was at the start of the climb, he didn't get hurt, but if he were to have fallen from a high spot, it would have been a bit dangerous.

He did have a body that won't die no matter what height he falls from but he does feel the pain.

"This is a bit backwards but I need to come up with a countermeasure so that it's alright to fall."

He immediately found the place he needed.

At a bath that seemed to entrust its back to the wall, both its width and its depth were fairly considerable. With this, no matter how he fell, he wouldn't crash into the floor.

It was the greatest location.

"What're you doin', Nii-chan."

Other than the fact that he could be seen by others.

"Eh, ahh, that's well.....An observation?"

What observation.

"So you're trying to do some peeping, Nii-chan."

"Ah, yes."

He was exposed. Resigning himself to the fact that he was going to a police cell, Yuu nodded, but,

"Be careful. There hasn't been a single up until now that has succeeded in peeping."

".....Ha?"

He reflexively tilted his head from the response that was different from what he expected.



In the general public baths of Galarie, upon use, there exist rules that must be followed.

- Do not dirty the public baths
- Do not bring in anything other than the hand towel
- Do not rampage about
- Do not fool about
- The words of the staff are absolute

Although there are some additional manners, as long as those five rules are followed, guests won't be blamed for anything that may happen.

This was something that Feudal Lord Zeke Oisast had decided, and was said to have aimed for liberal intermingling and use.

These rules that Zeke Oisast had decided also had the backing of the Holy Ulquiorra religious organization, which treated bathing areas as a type consecrated ground, and became allowed only in this land.

.....A bit of time flowed, and around the time that these rules had taken root with the citizens, traveling guests, and sailors that dropped by in the middle of their voyages, a certain question was raised to Feudal Lord Zeke Oisast.

"Is peeping OK?"

To that sentence that spoke for the men of the world, Feudal Lord Zeke Oisast made use of some shocking words and replied.

"If you want to see, go and peep. Nay, show me that you can."

They were given the Feudal Lord's go sign.

The men were delighted, while the women felt resentment. But in the end,

peeping didn't occur.

Nay, it couldn't occur.

Not a single person was able to cross over this wall.

"It's said that magic was laid upon it or something."

"So that means that the peeping countermeasures were perfect."

The reason why the Feudal Lord told them to try was probably because he had absolute confidence in this wall.

Moreover, if one continued to fail, it would be in violation of the 『Don't fool about』 rule, and quickly lead to the painful end of being made to leave.

"Incidentally, what would happen if the rules are broken?"

"You get a fine and banned from the baths for several days."

This also hurt. After failing several times, one's wallet would get lighter from receiving a fine, and when one becomes unable to visit for a few days every time one received the penalty, their feelings would grow dull in those few days.

"So the men that tried to peep disappeared just like that.....I do think that it's a pity as a fellow man, and I understand their regrets very clearly."

"Well, if ya just want ta vent out your sexual desires, it is better ta just go to the Flower District, after all."

As well as your body and your cap.

"Still, the Flower District, huh.....C, could it be, Marco, you, are you detailed with the Flower District as well?"

"Of course. From the latest popular actresses to the actresses to look forward to from now on, I know all about 'em."

The Flower District, I'm sure that you somehow understand this but, is something like the so-called pleasure quarter in Japan.

The women that work in that pleasure quarter are called actresses in this world.

"Gokuh (Gulp).....M, mind telling me about that later?"

"Ah, I was told by Her Highness-nee-chan that I can't do that."

Dammit, so she already made the preparations for that!

"That little, if it's going to be like that, prepare yourself, Sylvia! I'm going to make a thorough observation on those tiny breasts that you're so worried about!"

Renewing my resolution, I placed my hands on the wall in order to cross over it.



".....I just got a bad feeling about something."

Sylvia was submerged in the public bath, but an unpleasant feeling like something was crawling about her body made her quiver.

"Could it be that Yuu is.....?"

What she recalled was a similar feeling that she got when she was trying to change her clothes that had gotten dirty during the time that they had once traveled together. At that time, Yuu had tried to peek at her while hiding under cover.

"No, it couldn't be. Although it is him we are speaking of, even he would have matured.....No, come to think of it, something like that had not happened at all."

How Yuu's way of life and that personality of his hadn't changed from how it was three years ago was one of the things that she felt happy about when she reunited with him, but putting it in a bad way, it also meant that he hadn't matured at all.

Actually, Yuu was looking at the breasts of the three female knights that were Sylvia's escort, wasn't he.

"Sylvia-sama, is something the matter?"

"Wiola, huh.....No, it is nothing."

When one of Sylvia's escorts, the Imperial Guard Knight Wiola, asked the muttering Sylvia a question, Sylvia shook her head.

Another one of the Imperial Guard Knights approached that Sylvia.

"Ufufu—. Were you thinking about Yashiro-sama—?"

"Muh.....I certainly was doing that but what are you smirking for, Akeru."

The female knight called Akeru giggled.

"I mean—, your Majesty, you were making the face like that of a housewife that was tired of her good-for-nothing husband—."

What was with that awfully real-like metaphor.

Sylvia poured hot water on Akeru without a word.

Chapter 150: The Expansive World and the Admittance Ban

What awaited me as I dreamt of the utopia, was a second fall.

"Usodadondokodo-nnn!!"

"I have no idea what you're saying, Nii-chan!"

What lied in wait even further after I fell, was the impact of when I fell. Striking against the water, my back has surely become completely red. It was tingling in pain.

"Dammit.....it just doesn't feel like I can climb it....."

The rumor that this bathhouse hasn't allowed anyone to peep even a single time since it was built isn't just for show.

Or rather, this is only a guess, but I can see that there are several magic spells that were cast on this wall.

While I was climbing the wall, it felt like my arms would feel heavy and that it would become easier to slip.

I don't have any positive proof. But, since the Feudal Lord confidently said that, he probably went at least that far. In that case,

"Climbing the wall to climb over that wall can't be done half-heartedly."

Scaling it is almost impossible even for me who has an overwhelming advantage in terms of grip strength and physical strength.

Once again, a wall stood in front of my way.

"It really is impossible, Nii-chan. Just give up."

The nearby Marco called out to me as I vexingly stared up at the ceiling.

"The number of people that do this increase every year at this time. But, no matter who they are, they just can't conquer it. It's said that it's impossible even for the guys that appear at the main tournament of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration."

"No way....."

To think that it was unobtainable even for the guys appearing in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration.....。

"Well, it'd be a different story if ya could fly through the air."

.....

"That's it!"

Right, that's it. I just have to fly! For what reason did I exceed the limitations of being human! (It's obviously in order to peep)

If it's this body that far transcends that of an ordinary person, it can easily cross over dozens of meters!

"Ni, Nii-chan?"

"Thank you, Marco. Right, that's it. There was no reason for me to be foolishly honest in climbing up the wall."

This is one of those game changing ideas, isn't it.

"That's right. It's fine if I can cross over the wall with a jump."

"Nonono! That's normally impossible after all! Ya can't use magic here, ya know?"

Can't use magic, huh. So it really was devised so that magic was obstructed.

"Be at ease, Marco. I don't have Maryoku to begin with."

"Ue!? Nii-chan, ya don't have Maryoku!? Then how do ya plan on doin' the jump....."

Moving to a place away from Marco who was muttering something, I tried making a jump.

I lightly put in enough force so that I wouldn't crash into the ceiling.

I lost momentum at around halfway up the wall that separated the men's bath and the women's bath, and after a moment of stagnation, I fell.

".....Tto, that was about fourteen meters. Since I jumped up more than half of the wall's height, I'll immediately be there if I put a little more force."

I was surprised by how the wall was higher than what I expected, but I was somehow able to grasp the wall's approximate height and how much strength I need to put in. I'll reach it this next time.

"Wha, wh-wh-wha-wha! What was that just now!?"

While he was poking at my back as I was smiling from being able to see the summit of my goal, Marco asked me that question. Would you stop that, it tickles.

"What do you mean what? All I did was jump."

"A normal human can't jump up like a Big Hopper!"

Certainly, even I don't know of any human that possesses the jumping power to

go over ten-odd meters without the use of magic. I guess it isn't unreasonable for Marco to be surprised.

By the way, the thing called a Big Hopper is a gigantic grasshopper monster that exists in this world, and despite being the size of a baby, it can easily jump over a large building. Having a gigantic bug hopping up and down while it draws near is surprisingly mentally scarring.

"Amazin', that's amazin', Nii-chan! If it's this, then.....!"

Marco had gotten excited as if he were doing it himself, but then that excitement suddenly turned into a frown and he showed an insecure mood.

"Nn? What's wrong, Marco?"

"Those guys 'ave come, Nii-chan. Look."

When I asked that, Marco turned his gaze towards the bathing room's entrance.

".....Shoot, did I screw up?"

At the end of Marco's gaze, there were two staff members wearing t-shirts and shorts. The two staff members came in looking like they were doing a patrol.

"You'll be out if ya fail this time."

"Heh, it's fine as long as I don't fail this time."

Getting a bit away from the wall, and tightening the towel wrapped around my waist, I placed the fingers of both my hands on the floor, and took the posture of a crouching start.

"Nii-chan?"

Probably having never seen this posture before, Marco looked like he couldn't make a guess as to what I was doing.

Well, that couldn't be helped.

Even if they compete over battle techniques in this world, there are almost no competitive matches on running speed after all.

It was a posture for the sake of "breaking into a run" that Earth's mankind had invented in order to compete in that running speed.

"♪!!"

Don (Bam)

A sound as if a ten ton truck had crashed into something resounded throughout the bathhouse.

Jumping out with the crouching start that utilized the spring power of my whole body, I crashed into the layer of air, and that was the explosion of the moment I

pierced right through that.

Like a shell shot out from a cannon, I soared to the air and what spread out before me was.....—

"『Sutoppu Za Warudo (Stop the World)』"

A world that had turned gray, and a little girl with new leaf colored hair at the top of the wall with her arms crossed and her body wrapped in a towel.

And then, in the next instant,

"Buberah!?"

Together with a pain that ran through my face, I made a grand fall into the bath that was enough to erect a waterspout.

That day, I received a ban on going in and out of the general public bathhouse.

Chapter 151: With Smiles and Anger

"Just what in the world did you go to the bathhouse to do?"

Gogogogogo (Threatening aura)

The Empress of the large magic country Leezelion, Sylvia, was smiling.

"I did not invite you to the bathhouse just to let you peep at the women's bath, Yuu."

While she directed an immense amount of bloodlust towards me.

.....Hello, this is the one that acted as the Hero a long time ago, Yashiro Yuu. When I tried and failed to peep at the public bathhouse, it was exposed to my guardian (Sylvia) in the end, and now I am being scolded.

The location is at a coffee shop that was a bit of a distance from the main street, and the scolding was done on the shop's open terrace.

"Honestly, you really are....."

Sylvia's cheeks swelled, and she was mad with anger (bloodlust).

In the old days, Sylvia was the type whose hands would immediately go flying, but it seems like she's changed a bit in these three years as she didn't lay a hand on me.

But, however, that instead turned into fear that rushed through me.

"S, sorry, Sylvia."

"You are greatly mistaken if you think that things will be settled just by apologizing, you utter fool! Today is a day where I will not forgive you! 今日と言う日は許さん！"

Ahh, I knew it. It looks like it's going to be more troublesome than being hit.....

No, well, it all really is my bad though.

"To begin with, why is it that you think of nothing but such immoral behavior!"

".....Is this about my philosophy or something?"

Why am I perverted. Is it because I am a Japanese boy, or is it that I am simply perverted.....Uumu, I don't know. Is it that, something like "I am perverted, therefore I am"?

"Not that, you fool!"

"Ouch! So you are just hitting me!"

I received her fist on the top of my head.

It was a fist that was strengthened through Maryoku. The tingling pain that remained was tougher to endure than the pain from that Impact from before.

"I was happy that you had not changed after three years had passed but.....

Honestly, I wanted those bad habits to have been changed."

"It's because there was no reason for them to change. These three years have been a life of self-indulgence for me."

"Self-indulgence.....Did you not think of trying to do anything?"

I did think. Upon thinking about it, there was nothing that I wanted to do in Japan.

"I didn't think of anything other than wanting to live in this world. I accepted things after three years had passed, but there was no index to live by."

Though, right when I had accepted the fact that I couldn't return to this world, I was summoned once again.

"I see....."

"Yeah, that's why I was happy when I returned to this world.Though it would have been the worst if I was summoned as the Hero."

Come to think of it, close to two months have passed since I returned to this world.....It feels like it's been short, yet long at the same time.

"So, why are we in a place like this? You even made Marco go home."

That's right, the ones currently in this coffee shop were me, Sylvia, and then the three escort Imperial Guards. No one but us five.

When Sylvia said that he didn't need to guide us anymore for today, Marco left while making a salute to me who was a man whose dream was broken.

Moreover, with his left hand.

"Muu.....You are trying to change the subject, are you not?"

How did she figure it out! Even though I mixed in a somewhat solemn story to try and leave the peeping matter unsettled!

"I, I'm totally~ not! So, why?"

".....Good grief."

Going *Jiro*, Sylvia's long slit eyes pierced through me, then, *fuu*, their sharpness softened.

"I thought that we could have talk with the present day Hero-donos after this."

"Ha? With me?.....Wait, by present day, you mean "now"!?"

"Correct.Amagi Kaito, I intend to meet with them. Being here at this coffee shop is simply to kill time."

Come to think of it, the reason why I am participating in the tournament is for her to meet with Kaito and the others.

"Killing time huh.....Then, in that case, we now have free time, right?"

"It certainly is free but.....What is it? Are you thinking of indecent things again?"

"I'm not, just how much doubt do you have for me! Do you really distrust me that much!? We're comrades.....that traveled together three years ago, aren't we!?"

"Shut it, you peeping tom."

"I really am sorry—!!"

I dove into a minefield all on my own.

".....You will let me hear the reason, right?"

Huh? The minefield didn't explode. It was a misfire.

"No, well, at the time I tried to peep at the women's bath, you see? It felt like.....I met with someone I knew."

Having jumped high using physical strength that far surpassed that of an ordinary person, I normally should have been able to peep with ease.

However, my peeping failed. Most likely, it was due to the hands of that little girl with bright green hair that I saw at that time.

It was way too sudden, and I wasn't able to get a proper look in that one moment but.....Most likely, that was.....—.

"Felt like?"

"I only saw her for a bit, so I can't confirm that it was the person herself.

Though, since she had the same hair color, I think that she's probably the same person."

"I see.....And so, you are saying to want to look for her, correct?"

"Yeah. If she really is my acquaintance, I think that she is also searching for me."

Though she's probably disgusted with me.

"I see, in that case— —"

"There is no need for that."

Before Sylvia could finish what she was saying, something white gently appeared at the edge of our vision.

It was all too sudden, as if it had come falling from the sky, and after I

instinctively looked up, I saw that while something.
At the table Sylvia and I were facing each other at, it sat down in an open seat.
That thing, covered in a pure white hooded robe, took a sip of my milk coffee
(that was full of sugar) with a mouth that was hidden in the hood.
"Who are you!"
"Halt."
In a beat, Sylvia's escorts gripped the handles of their swords, but Sylvia reined them in.
"If you draw, your heads would fly."
"Oya, so you even noticed me?As expected of the 『Princess Knight』-sama."
Next, an alluring voice echoed, and a woman appeared from the nearby shadows.
Tan skin and golden hair, and then proportions that makes men's gazes glue onto it.
That woman, is someone I recognize.
"Tre-san!?"
"It's been a while, Yuu."
The female Adventurer that I met in Luxeria, Tre.
It's been a little over a month since we separated, but I can feel a composure like that which an influential person gives off coming from the current Tre-san.
"Excuse me for a bit. I'm just an escort, well, more like a guardian, I suppose. If you're not gonna fight, I won't either."
When Tre-san sat down in the other open seat, she smiled with a grin and looked at me.
Tre-san is an escort.....Then that means that this white hood really is.....!
When I looked at the white hood as if it here pulled down, it.....No, that girl took off the hood, and showed her face to us.
"It's been a while, Yuu.I didn't want to have that kind of reunion."
While puffing out her cheeks, the Elven little girl, Lililuri said that.

Chapter 152: The Preceding Hero and the Witch of Time

"It's been a while, Lililuri!"

"Nn.It has, Yuu."

Lililuri, who I met after so long, showed a smile that showed a gap

from the matureness that was within her innocence.

Even though it only a month has passed since we separated at

Luxeria, her ambiance has changed considerably.

"From how you look, it looks like you've trained for several months
already."

"Yes, I have trained for three years."

Only a month has passed since I parted with Lililuri.

Yet, why had she trained for three years, is probably what you're
thinking. That of course is due to the power of Norn-baa-chan who
is the 『Witch of Time』.

And its name is 『Labyrinth of Time』.

Filled with the Time Magic that the 『Witch of Time』 uses, it is

another dimension with a different flow of time.

This is abrupt but do you know the Tale of Urashima Tarou?

The Palace of the Dragon King (Ryuuguujiyou) that was at the bottom

of the sea that he was led to by the turtle that he saved.

It is a story where after staying there for several days, when

Urashima Tarou returned to land, several centuries had already

passed since the day that he went to the Palace of the Dragon

King.

The 『Labyrinth of Time』, this is the opposite of that Palace of the
Dragon King. When inside of that space, the progress of the time

outside becomes slower.

No, would it be faster for you to understand if I said it was like
the Room of Spirit and Time?

Well, in any case, it is fine as long as you understand that
Lililuri trained in a place where time progressed differently for a
span of three years.

Still, three years, huh. Since she was about seven or eight
years old when I first met her, is she around ten now? However,
maybe because she's an Elf, it doesn't look like her appearance has
grown at all.

"Why are you here?"

When I asked her that, Lililuri's expression became stiff.

"There is something I need to report to Yuu and.....Her
Majesty."

Lililuri looked at Sylvia as she answered. Huh, does she know about
Sylvia? She got to know her at the time in the Glaard Wasteland.....As
expected, there's no way that's the case. I guess she was told by
Baa-chan.

"To me?What sort of business might that be."

It looks like she understood that she was my acquaintance from my
reaction.

While making a quizzical expression, Sylvia asked that to
Lililuri.

Lililuri has business with Sylvia.....Just what could it be? Did she
receive a message from Baa-chan?

No, it's Baa-chan we're talking about. It's hard to imagine her
sending Lililuri over for a message.

However, there's pretty much no relationship between Lililuri and

Sylvia. Then just what kind of reason is there.....Well, I guess it's faster to ask about it rather than idly speculate it.

"Putting me aside, what's your business with Sylvia?"
When I asked, Lililuri straightened up her back and,

"I am the 『Witch of Time』 Lililuri.According to Time Magic, I have come in order to prevent the calamity that will occur in this town."

declared such.

"—Wha!?"

"You are.....the 『Witch of Time』 that succeeds after Norn-sama?"
In contrast to me who took a few blinks even though I understood

Lililuri's words, Sylvia, without any signs of discomposure, straightened her back like Lililuri and replied.

Wait, why did Lililuri become the 『Witch of Time』!?

Sure, I knew that she did the training for Time Magic, but I didn't hear a single word about making her the 『Witch of Time』,

Baa-chan!!

Calling one's self the 『Witch of Time』.....There's no way she doesn't understand the significance of that!!

Moreover, that calamity.....Is it that big of an affair that needs the 『Witch of Time』 to make a move?

Just what in the world is Baa-chan thinking in a time like this—

"The 『Witch of Time』 -jya toooooooo!!??"

My thoughts were interrupted by Paimon's scream as she suddenly appeared out from my shadow.

"Damn you, 『Witch of Time』! Today is the day I transfer my requiem to you!!"

Appearing from my shadow, Paimon started hissing like a cat as she

surveyed the area.

"Wait, Paimon!? What are you doing all of a sudden!"

"What are you saying! You also know I would not stay quiet and yield after hearing about the 『Witch of Time』 -jya rou!So, where is that detestable 『Witch of Time』 -jya?"

The growling Paimon now became restless.

"She isn't the one that you want but.....You're really the 『Witch of Time』, right?"

"Un.I have learned all of the 『Time』 magic."

When I turned from Paimon to Lililuri and asked that, Lililuri strongly nodded.

Seeing that, Sylvia also made a small nod.

It would seem that Sylvia also believes in Lililuri's words.

"Haaa!?.....In other words, this little shorty is the 『Witch of Time』, Norn's successor!?Isn't that a bit unbelievable!?"
You're the one that's unbelievable, was it enough of a shock to make you change your tone?

"Muu.....Not, little shorty."

"Heehn, compared to Norn, you're just a little shorty -jya wai!"

Quarrelling with a ten-year-old girl, you totally have no maturity.

"Besides, I doubt if Time Magic is even usable -jya. In the time that I knew that being since I met her, a thousand and two hundred years passed and she showed no intention of using it even once, you know -jya zo?"

Did she have an intention to use it?Or rather, that Paimon, did she really even hate Baa-chan? She's done nothing but reactions that make me question that.

A tsundere? Are you a tsundere?

"Kiki.Yoisho. If you find it vexing, prove that you are the 『Witch of Time』."

Paimon said that sounding as if to make fun of Lililuri——And for some reason, she got up onto my lap.

"Why get on him?"

"I am using him in place of a chair -no jya. The reason he does not alienate me is because he appreciates me, is it not? Kikiki!"

What is this vampire saying with a self-satisfied look.

"Muu.....In that case.....Is this, fine?"

"Ooh?—Ow!?"

The weight on my lap changed a bit. The identity of it was Lililuri who sat on my lap.

As for Paimon who had climbed onto my lap a short while ago, she was knocked onto her butt next to me, who was sitting on a chair, and had become teary eyed.

Most likely, she brought time to a halt, shifted Paimon's location, and climbed onto my lap.

"♪!So it was 『Stop the World』."

Paimon groaned.

Still, manipulating time really is a cheat ability.

Being the bearer of the Sacred Sword is as well, but I think that in a battle, there is nothing that holds an absolute advantage better than that.

Actually, I once had a bout with a serious Baa-chan before, and that was dangerous.

I didn't feel any chance of winning.

"Wh, why you....."

"Ah—, since you're screwing with the conversation, shut up."

"Mogagah!?"

I restrained the mouth of the still dissatisfied Paimon.

Ouch! This asshole bit me just now!?

"Hahaha, she's quite a pleasant girl. Just as the Guild Master.....no, as Shishou said she would be."

Seeming to have been watching the scene, Tre-san laughed.

Shishou?Is she talking about Baa-chan?

"What is this -jya, are you also Norn's successor?"

Having escaped from my hand, Paimon looked at Tre-san.

"Nope, I only learned how to fight from that person. I'm no good with magic, ya see."

Tre-san shook her head sideways, and extended her hand to the handle of her sword that she wore on her waist.

"Now then, friend of Shishou's. Since what this girl is going to talk about from now on is pretty important, it would really help if you could listen quietly.....Besides, it isn't, a story that doesn't concern a Mazoku like yourself"

"Wh, who is that fellow's friend!W, well fine, I shall listen.

Reluctantly, it is reluctantly, got it -jya zo?"

She's good. To think that she would make her listen by flattering her by calling her Baa-chan's friend!

Rather, you really are a tsudere, aren't you, Paimon.

"Come on, Lililuri."

Having made Paimon keep silent, Tre-san glanced over at Lililuri.

Lililuri replied to her with a nod.

"Un, thank you, Tre.Within three days from today....."

It was there that Lililuri took in a deep breath, and exhaled.

Then—

"This town, will be destroyed by Mazoku."

She went and said that.

"___"

Both Sylvia and I could do nothing but gulp.

"Is that"

"It is, true."

When Sylvia, who recovered faster from her confusion than me, tried to ask about it, Lililuri got the better of her.

".....That damned Baa-chan, she threw me into the middle of material for a top category disaster.....♪!"

What I recalled was the letter from when departed from Luxeria.

So the reason she recommended the southern Gehl Archipelago was because she knew that I would read too much into it and go in the opposite direction!?

"Mazoku.....Naturally, that is about ones other than me, right -jyaro?"

Currently, I do not have the power to annihilate this town after all -jyashi. What kind of fellow is it -jya?"

Since Lililuri transferred onto my lap, Paimon sat in an open seat.

"Yes.....However, I do not know just how big of a scale it is."

Lililuri hung her head down looking regretful.She didn't know?

"You don't know, even though you can see the future?"

The 『Witch of Time』. As long as she succeeded that name, Lililuri should also be able to see the future. Despite that, why.....

"I.....as well as Shishou, at the border of a certain time, we have become unable to see the future beyond that."

"Even Norn-sama you say!?"

Making a *gatah* sound, Sylvia stood up. Her cool face from before

collapsed, and was dyed in astonishment. It wasn't unreasonable for her to be surprised. At the very least, I was also surprised.
"Come to think of it, at the time at the Glard Wasteland, Baa-chan did say that she had become unable to see the future several months ahead....."

Remembering it now, that was an event that can't be overlooked wasn't it.

.....It would still be fine if the future were uncertain. But, for Baa-chan and Lililuri to not be able to see the future, wouldn't that mean that something big enough to cause that was going to happen?

".....『Witch of Time』-dono, um, what is the border that you mentioned?"

Slowly sitting back down in her seat, Sylvia asked that to Lililuri. Her eyes were sharp and serious.
".....The furthest I can see into the future right now is"

".....The furthest you can see is?"
I involuntarily gulped.

"With a sword of light raised overhead, it is Yuu's figure."

Chapter 153: The Twelve Strong People

"WAAAAHHHHH!!"

Deafening cheers resounded in Galarie's arena.

This arena is able to accommodate several tens of thousands of people, but right now, greatly surpassing the capacity limit, and including the guests that were standing while watching, the audience was overflowing.

The audience was whirling with enthusiasm, but in contrast to that, only the center field of the arena was cold as if ice water had been tipped over it and had fallen silent.

In the center field, there was a group of twelve people.

They were the participants that would appear in the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration.

All of them possessed exceptional talent, and were remarkable characters that attained the right to appear in this Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration. There weren't just Humans, there were Therianthropes and Dragonewts, and even the Asura Tribe was here.

Among them, there were four people that particularly stood out.

One of them was a knight that wore a shining gold heavy armor on his whole body.

A top naked man with long, red hair.

And then—

(T, to think that there was another one other than me.....!)

A man with a black overcoat and a hood pulled over his head, and,

"....."

A man with a white overcoat that similarly had a hood pulled over his head.

Two men that wore overcoat outfits as if they were mirroring each other.

The black one, Yashiro Yuu shuddered yet bore a bit of affinity for that man that had a similar appearance to himself.



After learning the news of the Mazoku invasion from Lililuri who had inherited

the name of the 『Witch of Time』, we called off meeting with Kaito's Hero party and ended up roaming the town of Galarie.

It wasn't like we walked about to play around.

It was in order to place marks at places that Mazoku would appear at by borrowing Lililuri's power.

We did something bad to Kaito's group who probably changed their plans to match ours.

Well, I would like to say that it's all good because according to Lililuri, it was because of that that she was able to almost accurately identify the location.

And then, after greetig the morning of the next day, I was here in this arena.

I peeked over at the other participants.

Zappa of the Asura Tribe, as well as Kuon and Libsal were looking at me.

Libsal should be the only one among the guys here that know that I am the 『Darkness Executioner』 but.....

"....."

.....No, in regards to Zappa, it looks like he's worried between me and the white one.

I wonder if that overcoat over there also has Recognition Obstruction Magic knitted into it.

As for Kuon, maybe because she is unable to recognize me upon investigating my smell and presence, her head was constantly tilting. Come to think of it, I never told Kuon and Bernadette that I was the 『Darkness Executioner』.

Sylvia saw through it in one try, but contrary to that, it was an unexplainable overcoat that was surprisingly strong. I guess I could say that is very much like Baa-chan though.

Still, they did a great job assembling this strong lineup.

The fox-eared Kuon and the top half naked Libsal, the six-armed giant Zappa, the full bodied completely gold armor. There's still more to go, you know?

A red scaled Dragonewt, an erotically equipped woman (big breasted) wearing a black high-leg leotard and full-face helmet, etc, etc.

It means that the only normal ones were me and the white overcoat guy.
(.....No, I guess we're not really normal either.)

It looks like the chujibyou in me relapsed from the entry of the similarly

clothed guy.

"""UOOOOOOOoooh!!"""

"つ.....What's going on?"

As I was thinking such things, the voices of the audience that had been loud up until now was raised even louder.

Damn, I thought my ears were going to go crazy. There are guys with a better sense of hearing than other people here, dammit! Rather, just what in the world is going on? Just how long are we (the participants) going to stand on top of this arena that is basking in front of the sun and getting hotter?

My question was answered right away.

"Hey, he~y! Everyone, are you all doing great~!?"

Maybe through magic, a woman's voice that sounded as if it passed through a megaphone resounded in the arena without losing to the cheers.

When it did, the cheers roared again.

"Just like always, Galarie's arena group's exclusive hostess, Lavitt Sheafield has taken the stage~!"

That woman that was wearing clothes that had high exposure similar to a bunny suit appeared from the sky, landed in the middle of the ring that the other participants and I were in, and raised the mike that she held in her hand over her head.

The one that had an entrance as if a *Ban!* (*Bang!*) sound effect would be made was a bunny-eared woman.

"""くあqwせdrftgyふじこip ! ! """

This was today's biggest cheer. I couldn't tell what they were saying anymore. The enthusiasm was so wild, it looked like they had gone crazy half way through.

Still, I could understand the reason why their enthusiasm went that wild.

The bunny-eared woman that named herself as Lavitt Sheafield, the impact of those two hills that grew on that chest of her's was incredible.

Everytime she hopped towards the audience while waving her hand, they would go *burun burun* and jiggle.

This is bad. If I were in the audience stands as well, I probably would have shouted until I lost my voice.

"Now~ then, it's finally time for the start of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration's main battles! The huge event where strong people chosen from every part of the world compete with each other with the seat of the World's Strongest on the line!! This year is amazingly the 50 year anniversary of when this had first turned into an open exhibition! Furthermore, this will be the tenth year since the main battleground was switched to Galarie, and is a turning point year!"

"Even the gathered participants taking part of this commemorative year's Magic Clad Martial Arts demonstration are greatly different from last year's participants, and are warriors that enliven the world~!!"

"Well then, well then, let's introduce those participants that you should pay attention to! A sparkling full body metal armor! His body is tricked out with supreme ruling metal!? The noble count of the Alcorde region, Montelugi the Third!"

The man that physically stood out even within the ring of participants due to his full body, sparkling gold armor brandished his giant shield that was also golden and answered the spectators.

Wait, hold on a second! When you say the supreme ruling metal, doesn't that mean orichalcum!!

Orichalcum. Also known as the supreme ruling metal, among the metals used for arms, it is material said to be the strongest and the rarest in this world. If it's used in the blade of a weapon, it would easily tear through even mythril, and if it's used in armor, any kind of blade wouldn't be able to pass through.

But however, that sort of thing is nothing but extra features for orichalcum.

The essence of orichalcum is its conductivity of magical power.

The conductivity of magical power, that is equivalent to a direct connection to the ease of endowments.

Starting with swords and armor, it is essentially a Herculean task to make endowments on such arms.

It's because deviations would be produced in the arm's strength and property by putting magical power into it. Artisans say that that reduction [makes the core go bad].

It is said that for the blacksmiths of Magic Swords, how many endowments they

can apply while keeping the weapon's strength as it is directly connected to their skill.

However, when it comes to orichalcum, it seems that『making the core go bad』almost never happens.

That shows just how easy it is to apply endowments, and it also means that it is possible to apply many endowments.

Weapons made from iron could have one, steel can have three, and even mithril silver could have up to five abilities endowed, but for orichalcum, the maximum was twenty, already making it on a different magnitude.

The sole flaw with that orichalcum is that 1kg of it had an absurd price of several tens of millions of f.

To have a full body of that, moreover using even a large shield made of it.....

That's already a cheat through the power of money. If they were to use orichalcum equipment, even an elementary school student could defeat anyone.

"Sealing his ability to tear even steel to pieces, a unique one that fights with the shield and mace that he holds in his hands! The Red Scaled Do Ijun!!"

The one that had red scales raised their mace overhead.

A Dragonnewt that won't use their claws or fangs huh.....This is my first time seeing one.

Dragonnewts are said to never use weapons, and in fact, I've never seen one that does either.

The reason for that was clear.

After all, a Dragonnewt's claws and fangs were sharper than normal weapons. For one of those Dragonnewts to use weapons.....Is it that? Is it some kind of binding play?

"Of the Fox Tribe, an unwomanly martial arts user! Kuon Heleott!!"

Oh, it's Kuon.

The introduced Kuon pulled a talisman out from her pocket, and threw that high into the sky.

"Vague Fireworks!"

Simultaneous with when Kuon shouted that, the talisman exploded, and emitted light.

Red, yellow, green, and blue, various colors bursted out and then vanished.

That certainly is fireworks.

What a performance. As expected of Jean's acquaintance.

Kuon waved her hand at the excited audience.

Like this, the introductions continued, and Usagi-chan went and introduced several participants.

"An assassin from the royal family Crestolia! Other than their gender and the fact that they are a knight, everything is unknown! Is their weapon a sword? A spear? Or could it be that they use magic? A Knight full of mysteries that hides their face with a helmet! Ryuune Lenfe!"

A black leotard woman wearing only gauntlets, greaves, and a full face helmet as armor.

Even though a majority of the participants, including me, were standing in the arena in a state of having our weapons equipped, the woman called Ryuune didn't have a single weapon on her.

There was Libsal as an exception, but since he's stronger unarmed, that can't be helped.

Just how would she fight.....

"She isn't the only one that is a mystery! The one dressed in a white coat, just what kind of participant are they? The participant's recorded name is 『』!!"

UWAAAAAAAH!! Goosebumps covered my entire body.

D, damn it, why is it that not just their appearance, but even their name is similar!?

"The other one, I guess this one is a bit more famous? The mysterious swordsman that agitated the front papers not too long ago, the one dressed in the black coat said to have defeated a gigantic dragon together with the Hero, that man's name is 『』!!"

UWAAAAAAAH!! They treated us as a settttt!! I mean sure, since both our appearances and names are similar, they would probably think that we were partners, but I graduated from this three years ago! I'm no longer a Chuunibyou!!

Moving on from me as I cried in my mind, the participant introductions continued.

"That deep crimson hair that is the mark of a royal family! The world's strongest fistfighter has come to take the title of the world's strongest! libsal Dora Gregoria Valanshel!!"

libsal raised both of his arms overhead.
The cheering of the female guests stood out.
.....Pretty boys should die, no mercy.

Altogether eleven people. With this, there was only one participant introduction left but.....

"Everyone, we've kept you waiting for a long time."
Together with those words, *shin*..... (silence.....), the venue fell silent.

"With the number of weapons he can handle at once being six swords, and the emblem that he obtained being the reigning champion's mark, the pennant winner of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration for four consecutive years! The second name given to him is, The Ashura Relm's Zappaaaaaa!!"

He unsheathed the swords from their scabbards which were attached to his waist and shoulders.

Each one of them had different shapes, and every one of them were beautiful. Those six swords that were most likely Magic Swords were bathed in sunlight and shined.

GOU!! (ROAR!!)
Cheers exploded. Thanks to that, my ears were ringing.
Ah, that little jerk Kuon, she was cleverly closing up only her ears.

.....Still, I did think that he wasn't an ordinary person, but to think that he was the pennant winner. Moreover, for four consecutive years.
Zappa whirled his six swords and magnificently sheathed them into their scabbards.

"The aforementioned were our twelve participants! Everyone give them a hand～!"

A warm applause poured onto us.
However, in between us participants, cold bloodlust was flying about.
"Let's start killing each other right away."

An atmosphere that seemed like it was saying that enveloped us.

Chapter 154: Pairings

"Well then, let's immediately get the match that everyone's been waiting for started—Is what I would like to say, but first, let's review the rules!"

When Usagi-chan said that into the mic, the loud cheering that was going on until just a little earlier changed into a great booing.

"Now, now, everyone, the rule review is important!"

Usagi-chan tried to pacify the spectators, but the spectators

didn't stop.

Boo! Boo!

"I, I mean, I was told to do this by management."

Boo! Boo!

"....."

Finally, Usagi turned her face down, and started trembling.

Rather, what the heck is this, how all of the spectators became one

and started bullying her.

If she receives something like this, she'll absolutely.....Ah—ah,

she'll cry, she'll immediately cry, she will definitely cry, look

she's cry—

"—Shhhhadduuuupppp, ya damned shitty oo's ! When I say I'm gonna explain the rules, I'm gonna do it, you pieces of scum!! Do ya want me to murdalize ya'll, aaahh!!"

DON!! (BANG!!)

Together with her dreadfully foul harsh words, Usagi-chan fired

Explosion Magic towards the spectators.

Eh, wh, what? What's this?

An explosion happened right in front of the audience seating, all

of whom were unable to anything about the attack, and cheers were made.

And, why were cheers being made from having magic shot at them?

"Fu—, fu—!!.....A, as you can see, a super powerful magic barrier has been put up in between the arena and the audience seating by several tens of Magicians, and will protect all of you in the audience!"

When the explosion cleared up, the appearance of an uninjured and excited audience was there.

"A barrier huh.....In other words.....!!"

Pulling out a kunai, Kuon threw that high towards the sky. When the vigorously thrown kunai flew up about 30-40 meters, *gin*, it was repelled together with a high-pitched sound and then fell.

"I see."

Seeming to have grasped something with that action just now, Kuon grabbed the kunai that fell and chuckled.

"Hou, Jou-chan, did you grasp it with that just now?"

Zappa asked that to Kuon while folding his arms.

"Pretty much. I've got it for the most part."

Kuon closed one of her eyes and grinned.

Zappa also grinned at the words that were returned to him.

"Looks like I can look forward to things this time. It can't be

helped that the excitement had withered after winning four times."

"Well that's great. Your record of consecutive victories will come to a stop this time as well."

The giant red haired man, Ibsal showed a smile reminiscent of a tiger.

"Fu—hahah! Correct! For I! Montelugi Bran Belhouchet the Third am

here!! The championship is mine -de a—ru!!"[\[1\]](#)

The man clad in golden helmet and armor opened the front of his full face helmet and showed his face.

He was an ossan with a conspicuous handlebar mustache that protruded out from his helmet.

"Gururu, in that case, I will crush that confidence of yours along with that armor."[\[2\]](#)

The Dragonnewt carried his mace on his shoulder while hitting his tail on the ground.

"....."

"....."

Without joining in with those guys that were frivolously talking with each other together with their bloodlust, the black full face helmet woman and the white overcoat man kept quiet while standing there doing nothing.

In term's of character, I'll go along with them and keep quiet.

"And that's all. Those were the rules! Next up is the announcement for the tournament's pairings! Everyone, bring your attention to the sky of the arena～!"

Before I knew it, the rule explanation was finished.

Well, other than not falling into the sea that filled the space between the ring and the audience seats, the rules were pretty much almost anything is allowed.

I can agree with how the audience booed her. (I only learned of this afterwards but it seems that Usagi-chan snapping from the boozing was a promised event of this town's arena. One of those snapping performances)

"This is.....They're using another rare magic."

Looking up at the sky, I reflexively muttered that.
What was suspended in the sky was a tournament chart that looked
like a ghost leg lottery that was spread out in a fan shape.
They really went and used a spell that was considered tricky even
amongst magic.

The twelve person tournament chart slowly rotated so that everyone
in the audience could see it.

"For the tournament pairings, we will first start with deciding
who gets the four seeding rights. Participants, please take a card
from here."

In Usagi-chan's hands were several tens of cards that she pulled
out from who knows where.

They were cards that were long in length like tarot cards.

"Now then, go ahead."

Being prompted by Usagi, I pulled a card from the stack. What came
out was a white card.

"Ah, too bad."

Usagi-chan looked at the card and said that.

So it really was a miss.

Dammit, I don't really want to fight too much.

"Hyyu! As expected of my great self! Even luck is on my
side."

What Libsal pulled was also a white card.

Huh, wasn't that a miss?

.....Ah—, no, I guess to this guy, being able to fight is a win. He
has a way of thinking that I envy.

"Gururu...Therianthrope, this is?"

"Ohh! It's a super win! The first one to obtain seeding rights was
Participant Do Ijun!"

Going *don don pafu pafu*, the venue got excited, but the

Dragonnewt called Do Ijun crossed his arms looking sulky. So this guy was also a muscles for brains type.

After that, Zappa, the white coat man, and the man said to be a knight from some country drew the winning cards and obtained the seeding rights.

"Well then, now that the seeding rights have been decided.....The participants' competition pairings have also concluded—! The pairing numbers were actually allocated on the cards that were handed out to the participants!"

At almost the same time Usagi-chan said those words, the number 10 became visible on my once plain card.

"Here is the first match! The Knight of Shootvania Narante versus the Fist Saint libsal!!"[\[3\]](#)

The faces of the two people whose names were called out emerged into the sky of the arena, and letters were carved into the tournament chart.

I see, so the turn order matches the pairing chart.

In that case, I'm closer to the end.

"Second match, the Fox Tribe's Kuon Heleott versus the Golden Armored Montelugi the Third!!"

Oh, Kuon was called.However, her opponent is that full bodied orichalcum jerk huh. How would she fight against orichalcum that defends against not only regular attacks but even against magic.....U—n, I wonder if I should have gone all out and taught her Zantetsu?

"Third match, the Mysterious Female Knight Ryuune Lenfe, and the one facing her is Adventurer Amda Jester!!"

So she's here, the Mysterious Female Knight.

Since I don't know how she'll fight either, I need to pay careful attention.

Still, she really has a great body. Even though both her breast and butt are big, she has a small waist, and her legs are long and slender.

If even her face was that of a beauty, she'd be perfect.....Nn?
The one that was looking at the mysterious female knight called Ryuune as if licking her up was me, but somehow.....yeah, somehow I harbored a feeling of discomfort.

I don't know what it was that made me feel that way though.
"Fourth match, the black coated man,『Black』versus, the Aloof

Martial Artist Yan Lian! "

Ah, it's me, it's me.

I almost didn't hear her.

So my opponent was the man wearing the clothes that looked like Chinese clothing.....Ah, crap, his name escaped me.

"And with that, we have finished announcing the pairings for the tournament's first round. The first match of the first round will commence in ten minutes. Everyone, give all twelve of our participants a big round of applause～!!"

While engulfed in the thunderous excited cheering and applause, the final selection of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration finally started.



"Kikiki, I had heard that the strongest or something would be here, but they are not worth mentioning! With riffraff of this level, my master's hold on the championship would not even shake."

In a section of the audience seating, there was a young lady holding a parasol.

She had beautiful long golden hair and golden eyes.

She was a beautiful young lady who did not suit this arena where bloody battles were going to unfold from here on out.

This blond haired young lady gazed at the participants that stood in the arena's ring and laughed.

"That is in the event that Yuu uses the power of the Sacred Sword. Although he's strong even in his current state, right now, there are few opponents that he can think optimistically about."

At her side, there was another youthful young lady.

The young lady with bright green hair and emerald eyes interjected the words of the young lady next to her.

When she did, the blond young lady made a face that went *mu*.

"Hmph, you saw the 『future』, didn't you? Honestly, both the current and previous 『Witches of Time』 are boorish -jya."

The blond young lady, Paimon, said that looking annoyed.

"I did not see it. However, if you know about Yuu's capabilities, that much is easy to imagine. Since I am Yuu's partner, I know him very well."

The bright green haired young lady, Lililuri, crossed her arms and proudly replied.

"To begin with, if you are his partner, you should be having faith in Master's absolute victory -jyaro ga."

"Mm-mn. Properly watching at those kinds of places and following up is what a partner does. That is what I want to become, that kind of partner. Not like you who completely depends on him."

"What was that -jya to?"

"What?"

The two young ladies glared at each other, and sparks scattered.

.....That was not a figurative expression, as crackling sparks scattered in between them.

Their respective Maryoku was clashing against each other.

"Both of you, come off it. Even if Silence and Recognition Obstruction have been casted, there is no changing the fact that you are bothering the surrounding guests."

The tan skinned woman that was sitting in the audience seat next to Lililuri, Tre, gulped down a sake bottle that she held in her hand while making a wry smile.

"Mu....."

"Kikiki, it looks like the attendant understands things better."

"You didn't understand it either.Honestly, that damned Yuu, was he trying to make me a babysitter?"

""Who are you calling a baby!?"

"The both of you."

Not knowing how many she had already made today, Tre breathed another sigh.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Refers to

himself with "wagahai"

[2] His

speech uses katakana and kanji.

[3]

Not sure if it should be Fist Saint or Fist Emperor or what.

Original: 拳聖

Chapter 155: Fist Saint

"Good job out there, Yuu."

In Galarie's arena, Yuu and Sylvia were in an area where only authorized people were allowed to enter.

"Things have only just started you know?"

"You feel more at ease at the times when you're fighting. Things like opening ceremonies, you're worse with things like that, right?"

As expected, she knew me well.

"Pretty much.So, Sylvia, how do things look on your side?"

Of course, it was in relation to the matter of Mazoku invading.

"The enemy this time is the Mazoku after all.....There's no telling how things will turn out. Tomorrow rather than today, and I assess that the final day has the higher possibility."

"The reason is?"

"It is because with something like a Mazoku invasion, that coarse and repulsive Aquadine is obviously taking the lead.And then, Aquadine is the type to fuss over theatrics."

"That's true.....Hey, would it be better if I lose in the first round?"

It's because if I lose, I would be able to move more freely afterwards.

"That would be good.....But there is also the debt with Zeke Oisast.....In the end, it had ended up being pointless, but that does not make for a good reason to not fulfill our obligation."

"And that means?"

".....Do not lose the first round. If you were to lose against someone of that level, the Leezelion name would fall as well."

Come to think of it, I am being treated as Leezelion's house guest, aren't I.

"Got it. Well, I'll do my best."

"I'm counting on you, Yuu.However, you really are unlucky, aren't you."

Sylvia said that sounding exasperated.

"Certainly, I was the one that made you a participant but....."

"Oh shut it—, even I'm annoyed with it. Each and every place I go to, it's filled

with nothing but problems. At this rate, no matter how much time passes, I won't be able to have a calm journey."

"Would you also try retirement? There is a good place on the Floating Continent, you know?"

The Floating Continent was a region that the Magic Major Power Leezelion had.

"Retirement, huh."

"What, do you not want to?"

".....No, I guess retirement would be good too. Journeys are good.....but calm places are needed too."

"Is that so. In, in that case, once this matter is resolved, would you like to go to Leezelion together?"

Sylvia's cheeks were a bit red.

"Let's see—, I guess I could have a small break from my journey."

If the turmoil this time around safely comes to an end, that would be good too.

WAAAAAAAH!!

"Oh, so it's starting already."

Most likely, libsal's match is going to start. The cheers have started to reach even a place like this.

"Well then, I shall return to my seat."

"I'll be heading back too."

"Well then, if you will excuse me."

"Ou."

I pulled up my hood, Sylvia tightened up her expression, and we both left that place behind.



"Oh, so you have come? Master, over here -jya."

As I pushed my way through the stands, the vampire princess waved her hand seeming to have noticed me.

"So you've finally come, Yuu."

"Welcome back, Yuu."

"Sorry to keep you waiting, Tre-san. And sorry about that, Lililuri. Making you save me a seat and all."

Since my current self was here as a spectator, I took off the [Darkness

Executioner]'s overcoat, the [Holy Night Shroud], and am in my usual [cloth clothes].

"Come, over here -jya, Master. Sit here -no jya."

"Ou. And here we, go.....How's the match."

Sitting in between Paimon and Lililuri, I focused my eyes on the arena's ring.

"It's just about to start."

"Starting now, the first match of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration Main Tournament will be carried out!"

When the hostess, Usagi-chan, announced that, the audience in the venue got excited.

"Knight Narante versus, Fist Saint libsal Dora Gregoria Valanshel.....Let the duel commence!!"

The one that started first was the knight. With a shield and sword, the solidly equipped knight took a big step forward. And at the same time that he did, he swung his sword for a side sweep, and cut empty space.

Facing off against that knight, libsal noticed the knight's intentions and averted half of his body.

When he did, a thin cut was made on libsal's cheek, and red blood went down along his cheek.

"So it was one of those slash wave things."

Tre-san guessed that from libsal's action and the thin cut on his cheek.

And then, most likely, that was probably correct.

He probably sensed that something was cutting the air and approaching so he avoided it.

However, sensing something that can't be seen is difficult to the point of being abnormal.

The cut on his cheek was proof that he couldn't avoid it.

"Hou.....Kikiki, just when I thought he was a mere small fry, it would seem that knight is also pretty good -jya."

"He just doesn't stand out, and in terms of strength, he probably holds a high position even in this world."

He would probably made a good fight against a low class Mazoku.

"Well, still, he probably won't win against libsal though."

The time that I said that was almost the same time that libsal made his move.

"Ha? What is with that fellow -jya, raising his leg like that."

libsal raised his right leg.

His right leg and his left leg became a straight line as if they were a single pillar, and after several seconds of him stiffening up with it raised overhead,

—*Batsunnnnn!!

The sound of a wall of air being broken through resounded, and his leg was swung down.

—*Ko—n!

The sound that rung next was, compared to the sound of breaking through the sound barrier, a sound that resounded much, much longer.

And then, a phenomenon that could make anyone doubt their eyes occurred.

The arena's ring was something where a block of a cut up boulder was laid out.

That boulder arena undulated as if ripples were being transmitted in a lake.

"!?"

As expected, even I was surprised.

I had come this far being completely separated from things like magic, but something like this, I would probably be unable to do it no matter how hard I tried.

Moreover, that thing libsal did, it wasn't something like magic, but something done through Taijutsu.

"Oh, we're shaking."

The impact fired from libsal's swung down leg made ripples on the arena's ring, and that seismic intensity was transmitted even to us who were in the audience seating.

The audience kept silent by the excessive thing that just happened.

And then, within that silence, libsal took up a stance with slow movements.

When he did, the knight, who had only been gazing at libsal similar to how the audience was, readied his shield looking like he had just remembered to do that, and in an instant, libsal's figure vanished,

and then in the next instant, he appeared right in front of the knight.

"Th, that jerk!?"

I couldn't see it.

I, who possessed kinetic vision good enough to see through even Sylvia's

[Shukuchi], was unable to catch hold of libsal's movements.

I could still understand it if he moved quickly enough that a portion of his body temporarily became unseeable like Bernadette's Quick Draw.

But, something like moving quickly enough that even his whole body's movements became unseeable.....Honestly, that was impossible even for Duke class Mazoku.

"Teleportation, that isn't it, right....."

It was fast enough movement to make me think that.



The Knight of the small to medium sized country Shootvania, Narante endured not letting out a single letter from his mouth that wanted to shout out.

(Y, you mean to say that I, was unable to see through it at all!?)

Narante was famed and well-known not only in Shootvania but also in the neighboring countries.

He, who was celebrated as the second coming of the knight among knights Falhut Enhans from his ability and upright personality, was in a vortex of confusion.

The man who he was facing off against right in front of him suddenly vanished right in front of him, and then stood right before him in the next instant.

Him promptly putting up his shield was nothing more than a deeply engrained movement from years of training that his body took.

"Heeh.....You saw through it, no, it doesn't look like it. Is it one of those things where your body just moved?"

The red haired man, the imperial prince of the Valanshel Empire libsal, stopped his body right before his fist hit the shield that Narante had put up.

"Kuh!!"

"Yotto."

He fired a thrust with his sword. But however, the imperial prince of Valanshel, libsal, of all things, held the sword's tip in between two fingers and stopped it. He stopped a sword stroke with just two fingers.

"Wha!?"

"Heheh, you won't be able to kill me with something of that level, you know?" Saying that, libsal raised a fist overhead.

"Fuh!!"

What was fired from that strong arm was a body blow. The Knight Narante's body floated up a lot.

"Ugeh!?"

The impact that assailed Narante the moment the body blow was fired was something that was hard to describe.

His body shook, and the impact was strong enough to make one wonder "wouldn't that fist have pierced through his armor and body?"

However, libsal's attack did not stop.

"ORAORAORAORAORAORAORAH!!"

A rush of fists struck his floating body. Narante desperately tried to keep consciousness and endured it by biting down his back teeth.

But,

"RAH!!"

Being blown away by an attack that was fired with a big wind up, he was thrown into the sea that surrounded the arena ring.

"W, winner, Fist Emperor libsal!"

The curtain of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration Main Tournament was raised with libsal's complete victory.

Chapter 156: Fierce Fight of the Armor and the Fox

"Incredible."

Seeing libsal's fight, Kuon muttered that single word.

It was just one word, however, in that one word, a tremendous amount of surprise and respect, and envy was packed into it.

In that battle that lasted a mere few seconds, Kuon caught a glimpse of a fragment of libsal's abilities.

(A guy like that other than Yashiro-aniki.....!)

The ones that Kuon respected the most were only two people, Vodan Heleott who was her father and Yashiro Yuu who she revered as her own teacher.

She also respected Jean who she had a deep familiarity with, but having been told about the existence of Yashiro Yuu, who walked a life that was like that of a dazzling superstar, from that Jean in question, his existence was bigger.

She was attracted by that strength. That was something close to a type of love.

And then, right now, with a strength that was enough to rival that of Yashiro Yuu, who she looked up to as her mentor, and was something that her own abilities would never reach right before her eyes, Kuon experienced every human emotion at the same time.

She harbored joy that there was such a monster other than her mentor, anger at that uncommon power, grief from taking her own current abilities into account, and then anticipation for the fight that would happen if she won and advanced to the next round.

That was unmistakably the pinnacle of humanity. And if she were to win and advance to the next round, she would be allowed to challenge that summit that was so far off in the distance that it seemed like it was hazy.

As long as she looked up to Yuu as her mentor, she probably would never be able to confront him as an enemy in her lifetime.

It was because that man was not her mentor and just a mere enemy, she would be able to fight him while devoting a desperate effort to it.

Even if she couldn't reach him right now, she could fight against him seriously.

And just how would that feel—

"Participants of the second match, please make your preparations!"

Being called out by the arena staff, Kuon switched over her thoughts.

"Uohon! (Ahem!) It is finally my turn on stage -de a—ru!!"

Right now, she only thought about beating down this noble that had the ostentation of the nouveau riche.

"""UOOOOOOOHH!!"""

When Kuon and Count Montelugi came out onto the arena ring from the waiting room, they were met with cheers.

Far from having cooled down from the heat of the first match, it seemed that they had become even more heated up.

"Well then, the second match, the match of the Golden Armored Count Montelugi versus the Fox Tribe Martial Arts User Kuon is about to start!"

When Kuon and Montelugi faced each other on top of the ring, the Rabbit Tribe hostess raised one hand overhead.

"Let the duel commence!!"

When the hostess swung her hand down and proclaimed the start of the match, it was at almost the same time that Kuon pulled something out from her breast pocket.



[The one that moved at once was Participant Kuon.....Whoa, this is!?]

Usagi-chan's surprised voice, which was amplified by the mike, resounded through the arena at almost the same time the audience made a commotion. The thing that Kuon pulled out was a couple of small, long and narrow pipes. And then, when Kuon chanted

".....[Eight Pipe Foxes]"

Smoke foxes jumped out from inside of the pipes and surrounded Kuon.

Those eight foxes that appeared from the pipes that were held in the gaps of the fingers of both of her hands each turned towards Count Montelugi and pointed strong hostility towards him while floating around Kuon.

"Hou, shikigami, and for them to be Izuna, how old-fashioned -jya nou."

"So you know what those are, Paimon!"

Since Paimon seemed to know what they were, I tried asking while being dramatic.

"Umu.A Shikigami, to say it concisely, is a technique used in order to tie a type of spirit that does not possess an original body to the material world, the present world, and has it possess objects representative of spirits, such as paper, which raises its "rank" through the technique."

"Rank.....I see, so they're the opposite of Mazoku and Apostles."

Mazoku and Apostles are originally from Makai and Heaven, and they are unable to come to the world that we are currently in, which is the material world if I were to borrow Paimon's words, in their original appearances, which are known as their Astral Bodies.

It's because they are Astral Bodies, which are a rank higher than matter. (The thing called rank here, if I were to make a comparison, it is something like the difference between being two dimensional and three dimensional)

Therefore, in order for Mazoku and Apostles to come to this material world, they need to lower their rank by creating bodies that are made with Maryoku, possessing those bodies, and transferring their souls into those bodies.

The thing that Kuon used, the thing called a Shikigami, is the opposite, where it manipulates a spirit with the power of a low grade Astral Body by binding it to a representative object that someone with an originally higher status had prepared.

.....Yup, although we've said various things and I understand it all, things have gotten mixed up.

"By the way, what is that Izuna thing?"

"It is a low grade spirit had made smoke its representative object. It might be closer to having a nature of being an evil spirit of rivers and mountains than being normal spirit though."

Smoke.....does that count as matter?

"It is a hand that the Magicians of Wakoku, whom often smoke things like those smoke pipes, use. While being flowing smoke, they possess the strength to lift up heavy things. Come to think of it, they are called pipe foxes because they have made the pipe of the smoke pipe their kip -nou."

As expected of someone who's lived more than a thousand years. Her amount

of knowledge is incredible.

"Supreme ruling metal orichalcum.....I'll take this opportunity to test out its sturdiness!!"

Kuon threw kunais at the shikigami that hung around her. Having the kunai thrown at them, the pipe foxes bit down on the handles of the kunai that flew at them.

At that moment, the pipe foxes turned towards Count Montelugi and rushed at him.

"Muooo!"

The pipe foxes that held the kunai in their mouths started attacking with those blades.

Being unable to deal with the eight pipe foxes that would escape to the sky if he tried to hit them down, Montelugi took a defensive stance, and became immovable.

It was there that,

Ton!

Kuon took an instant to slip into Count Montelugi's bosom.



"WH, WHATTtt -DEAAAAAaaRUUuuu!?"

"""UOOOOOoooh!""""

The reappearance of the teleportation from the first battle, libsal's battle, caused the grounds to get excited, and Count Montelugi to bellow in surprise. Faster than before both of those parties stopped their yells, Kuon went at that goldenly shining armor and,

"[Magic Clad Sword]!!"

hit a blade of Maryoku on him.

But,

"It won't move, even an inch!!"

She made an attack where she put all of her strength into it, but Kuon involuntarily looked like she would cry from the fact that she couldn't even put a scratch on the armor.

".....Fu, fu—haha! Mine golden armor is invincible -dea—ru!!"

After understanding that there wasn't any damage at all on his armor, Count Montelugi readied the golden tower shield that reached his own height, and then grandly swung it.

Most likely, Abilities for the sake of raising the striking power through the shield such as Cost Down and Impact Drive were equipped in that large golden shield. He easily swung it about as if he were swinging a pillow made of 100% cotton. That shield became the foe of Kuon who had instantly filled the distance until she was at his bosom.

The large shield made a direct hit on Kuon, blowing away that small body of hers.

"!?"

Don!

A loud, dull sound as if a 10 ton truck had caused an accident resounded in the area.

"Oi oi, wasn't that attack just now pretty bad?"

Tre muttered that sounding flustered. In contrast to her, Yuu smiled with a sneer.

"Certainly, it would have been bad if it had hit properly but....."

Kuon, who had been blown to the sky,

"Since she didn't receive it, it doesn't matter."

suddenly turned into smoke and vanished.

"Ninpou, [Shadow Clone]"

Kuon appeared behind Count Montelugi.

"Mumu!?"

"If a slash won't work, then how about this!!"

Faster than Count Montelugi, who had noticed her, could turn around, Kuon's fist made a violent blow on Count Montelugi's helmet.

Going further and adding a kick, she twisted her body and struck her heel on his helmet.

If she couldn't make a scratch on the armor, it would be fine if she made direct damage on her opponent.

Helmets were weak against impacts. It was because no matter how high a helmet's strength was, the head inside would directly sustain damage. Even including the helmet, the impact would mostly be directly transmitted to the

head!

But,

"Fu—haha!! I am fully equipped with Impact Reduce as well -dea—ru!!"

Inside the helmet, Count Montelugi howled.

"Count Attack!!"

The attack with a simple naming where he readied his shield and simply made a rush at her, approached Kuon!!

"♪, so you are raising yourself through your Abilities!"

Although Kuon evaded the moment before it hit, there was no composure on her face.

It was a simple charge, but with it being Boosted by the mountain of Abilities that were put on his Orichalcum armor, it had enough power to break her body if she were to receive it.

Holding her own against that, Kuon was able to feel that with her skin.

"In that case, here is my next hand!!"

Kuon put both of her hands together and made a sign.

"Ninpou, [Cloak of Invisibility Technique]!!"

Kuon's figure disappeared as if it had vanished.



[Whoa! Participant Kuon's figure has suddenly been erased!! However, it seems that it isn't the teleportation that was shown earlier! Just where in the world has she gone!?]

"Hou.....A user of ninja arts, huh."

While the rabbit-eared hostess shouted into her one-handed mike, Sylvia, who was spectating in the noble visitor seats, made an impressed-sounding mutter.

"How about it, Leonhart, are you also unable to see through it?"

Sylvia asked a question to the knight that was standing behind the seat she was sitting at.

The knight that she asked, Leonhart, shook his head sideways while making a wry smile.

"It is vexing, but I cannot see anything."

"Umu.That young girl, she is a very interesting talent."

"Can Your Majesty see her?"

"Umu.....It is because I can turn my eyes into quasi magic eyes."

Sylvia's emerald eyes had turned into a faint red color.

"Now then, how will she attack?"

Narrowing her eyes, Sylvia chuckled.



After several seconds passed since Kuon erased her figure, the ground underneath Montelugi's feet, who had kept his shield at the ready, suddenly exploded.

"Muoh!?"

Although he did not bear any injuries from the explosion, having his posture largely broken, Count Montelugi went *goron* and fell face up.

"[Bomb Guidance Formation・Empty Collapse]"^[1]

And then, not missing that moment, Kuon chased after him.

Exploding the talismans already laid out in the ring, she made an attack on Count Montelugi.

"Wh, what in the world -dearu kaaa!?"

Enveloped in the explosion flames, Count Montelugi shouted, and hearing that shout, Kuon activated her next hand.

"[Firedrake Breath]!"

Entangling the fingers of both of her hands, she formed [signs]. After forming several signs, Kuon then made her right hand into something like a tube and blew into it. When she did—

Gou!!

An amount of fire that was like the Dragon Breath that the Firedrakes, who live in volcanoes, fire was fired!

The fired blaze enveloped the explosion flames, gave form to a tornado of flames, and wrapped Count Montelugi up in it.

(How do you like this series of techniques!?)

With this series of super hot techniques, it would burn the opponent up together with his armor. Thinking that, Kuon was not wrong.

But,

"Funnuuuu!"

Gou!

Together with a loud shout of fighting spirit, the tornado of flames that wrapped Count Montelugi up was blown away.

"WHA!?"

The shock that assailed Kuon was tremendous.

The combination of exploding talismans and a blaze technique, that was a finishing move that Kuon, who primarily used taijutsu as her main method of fighting, had kept secret even from Yuu, who she looked up to as her teacher, and was proud of as her sole talisman technique trump card.

"Fumun. You are pretty good -dearu na!"

While making a *gacha gacha* sound, Montelugi brushed off the soot that was on his armor.

"However, putting myself aside, you are too powerless in front of mine golden armor -dea—ru!!"

In response to Montelugi who declared that while making poses as well, Kuon's anger welled up.

".....Hmph, I was just thinking that it would have been boring if you had died off with just this!"

Kuon grabbed the handle of the black katana that she carried on her back. A look of impatience could be seen on her expression.



"Kikiki, that fox girl, she is pretty good. To think that she would be able to go as far as combining talisman techniques with sign techniques.....As expected of the disciple of my master."

Paimon, who had a parasol open and was sitting next to Yuu, said that sounding awfully happy.

"What's this, are you acquainted with that girl?"

When Tre asked that, Paimon made a large nod.

"She is my master's disciple, in other words, my subordinate."

"That way of thinking is strange."

Lililuri made a cool tsukkomi.

"What's wrong, Yashiro?"

Noticing that Yuu kept silent and continued to stare at the ring, Tre asked that

question to him.

Moreover, Yuu had

"This is bad."

muttered that single phrase.

"Mu? What was -jya?"

Paimon responded to the words that Yuu muttered.

"Kuon no longer has any other methods of attack."

"Methods of attack?"

"Her strategy of doing a series of attacks after hiding herself just now was good. She probably intended on baking him in that suit of armor with that huge amount of heat or something but.....It looks like most of the damage didn't get through to him."

"Baking him you say....."

Imagining that, Tre was at a loss for words. It seemed that she surprisingly had little resistance to grotesque stuff.

"In that case, can she not win?"

"It's not like she can't win. In terms of physical ability, Kuon could be declared the winner."

"But she can't get through that defense.....And in that case, it means that it won't end."

Yuu silently nodded at Tre's words.

This match, if she were a power fighter like Libsal, it probably would have ended easily. If the armor wouldn't break, then it would have been fine if she forcibly hit him into sea that surrounded the ring and disqualify him after all. However, Kuon didn't have the power to be able to do that by force.

A beat later,

"Why have you been keeping quiet for a while now -noda, disciple of the witch."

Paimon began to talk to Lililuri.

"I know the details of what happens from now on. That is why I am banned from giving spoilers."

"Wha.....If you know, then would you hurry up and tell us!"

"Spoilers are banned."

"T, tell it to only me."

"Spoilers are banned."

"Is that the only think you are able to say! Eei, as I thought, being the disciple of the witch, your disagreeable places are the same -jya!!"

Going *punsuka* and getting sulky, Paimon turned the other way. Seeing that, Yuu breathed a sigh.

"Jeez, even though you've lived more than a thousand years, how childish..... Besides, with things like this, you have to think for yourself, you know?And so, Lililuri, a hint please."

"Spoilers, are banned."

Lililuri showed a smile like that of a mischievous child to Yuu.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: 爆導陣・空崩, Read as: ばくどうじん・からくずれ

Chapter 157: Clear and Serene

"....."

Kuon was frantically thinking.

"Fu—haha!! My victory shall not waver—!!"

For a way to win against this troublesome opponent that was clad in a full-bodied, completely golden armor.

(To be honest, as long as I don't do a way of fighting where I go in myself to attack, there are no factors that would cause me to lose.But, with that, there is also no way for me to win.)

Making a calm analysis, Kuon came to this conclusion.

And then, that was the correct conclusion.

Things similar to “even if the weapon or armor is good, if the user is second-rate, then it is just a useless possessions” are often heard, but in regards to this armor of supreme ruling metal, that wasn’t the case.

That which was made of supreme ruling metal, making it the highest peak as arms, even if a baby wore it, they would be worthy of being the strongest.

A technique that Kuon could use to breakthrough that supreme ruling metal and give damage to her opponent, as of right now, there was none.

Although she had learned [Zantetsu] from Yuu who she had respected as her teacher, she didn’t feel that she was able to have a grasp of it.

(Or rather, what kind of principle is behind that technique.)

While pouting her lips, Kuon muttered that in her mind.

Even among the numerous techniques in this Reinbulk, it was a technique that ignored one or two of the laws of physics, [Zantetsu].

If it were a skill that could simply tear apart even hard objects, then she could still understand it. However, that technique could cut down the target to be cut while being able to freely choose what wouldn’t be cut. As a matter of fact, even for Kuon, even though she should have been cut into two from the top of her head to her inside leg with a sword, the only thing that was cut was her fundoshi. She didn’t even know what to say about it anymore.

([Zantetsu].....After Yashiro-aniki taught me that move, he didn't say anything about it anymore.....Whether it be the stance, the way to move my body, nothing, he taught me none of that.)

Despite being my teacher, what negligence! is something that Kuon didn't think at all.

(Only once, he cut me and only told me about it.....In that case, there was probably a meaning to that one time.)

Kuon remembered.

The swordsmanship that should be called divine skill that Yuu exhibited in the Great Nordyord Labyrinth.

(It wasn't fast, nor did he put strength into it. Going along with the opening, he only swung it as if following his sword)

With that, Yuu cut Kuon's fundoshi and showed her.

(But, when he used it against the Leviathan, he swung with all of his strength. Power and speed, neither of them were required.)

(Then, what is.....I don't get it.....I don't feel like I can use it.....As I am now, something, something absolute is lacking.[Zantetsu] is impossible. No matter how I think about it, the image of me using it won't come to mind.)

In that case,

(Can I not win?Am I, going to lose against this, this incomprehensible guy?)

She couldn't see a way to win.But,

When compared to [Zantetsu], the figure of her own victory could be seen in her mind.

(Think, deeply, widely, the method to win, a method to win even if I can't use [Zantetsu], think!!)

Kuon submerged herself in that sea of thoughts.



"Oh?"

The one to first notice that unusual phenomenon, no, that change in atmosphere was Yuu.

Releasing the hand that grabbed the katana's handle, Kuon took a stance

empty-handed.

Both of her eyes became narrow, and her breathing became smaller. As if she felt at ease, she changed into that sort of atmosphere.

"What's wrong, Yuu."

"Tre-san, looking at Kuon, you don't notice anything?"

"Notice? Nn—.....This is."

When Tre observed her after being asked back by Yuu, it seemed that Tre also noticed that change.

"What is it -jya, what is it -jya, only understanding things just between you two!"

Say it in an easy to understand way for me too -jya!"

"You, have you really lived just as long as Baa-chan?Take a good look at Kuon."

While lightly hitting the head of Paimon, who was making a fuss like a child, he urged her to look.

"Mu?.....She's planted to the ground as if she's frozen up, isn't she?"

"Yeah. Right now, she has tremendous concentration."

"Concentration?.....Why would she stop if she's concentrating -jya?"

"It's because that concentration is put into her thoughts."

"Her thoughts huh.Just what in the world is she thinking about -jya?"

"Who knows, even I don't know. She's probably thinking about a method to somehow win or something though....."

Yuu became self-aware that the ends of his own mouth were lifted up.

"By some chance.....we might see something interesting."

That mutter, was a small mutter that no one could hear.

[Zantetsu].

The summit of sword techniques that only two people were able to reach. A Divine Skill that neither Leonhart nor Sylvia who knew about the move, and not even the [Witch of Time] Norn were able to get a grasp of it, and had yet to have anyone comprehend it.

The thing needed the most to use [Zantetsu] was the power of concentration. Abandoning all thoughts, and devoting all nerves into only the act of cutting would be the first step to reaching its gates.

That power of concentration would make the flow of time feel slow when compared to the speed of thoughts.

Kuon was in a situation where she had stuck half of one leg into that state of mind.

The information of her surroundings were cut off, the colors from her view were fading, and the sounds were feeling distant.

That was a state of mind that could be called clear and serene (meikyou shisui). If one could reach this much concentration, then they could be said to have broken through to the first stage of using [Zantetsu].

Incidentally, another name existed for [Zantetsu].

Another name given by that [Witch of Time] for that technique that cuts down the laws of physics and has nothing that it cannot cut as long as it is something with substance.

"Something interesting.....[Tenshou Jigen Zan (Heaven Illuminating Dimension Slash)][\[1\]](#).....?"

"Bufuuuh!?"

Yuu had a coughing fit at the words that Lililuri had whispered.

"Li, Lililuri!? Y, you heard me!? Rather, where did you hear that name!!"

"I heard it, from Obaa-chan."

"Guh.....That loli baba....."

Heaven Illuminating Dimension Slash. As you probably already know, it was something named during the heyday of Yuu's chuunibyou days.

Even that which sounded extremely cool in those days, if given time, will degrade into something that gives chills.

"What is with that super cool sounding name! Isn't that totally badass!?"

Paimon suddenly broke.

"You, you're character is breaking, oi!"

"That thing just now sounded good, so hurry up and tell me about it -no jya!!

Eh, eh, Tenshou Jigen Zan!? What is Tenshou?"

"In Yuu's world, Tenshou (天照) is written as [Illuminating the Heavens], but with those same characters, it can also be read as Amaterasu."

"Isn't that just super cool!? Tenshou Jigen Zan! Amaterasu! H, hey, hey, Master, could you add some cool sounding ruby characters[\[2\]](#) to my moves as well -ka nou?"

Paimon looked at Yuu while fidgeting and wriggling her body, and Yuu felt like hitting her on the head.

Pon

Gently placing her small white hand on his shoulder, Lililuri gazed at Yuu with a look filled with love, and

"It's fine, I also think it's cool."

gave a thumbs up. It was a good smiling face, and it looked like she was considerably pleased with the naming.

"F, for the first time, I feel like I want to take it out on my past self."

If only I had a blue tanuki that came from the 22nd century too, is what Yuu muttered.



Even if she stopped moving and was submerged to her shoulders in her sea of thoughts, there was no guarantee that the opponent she was fighting would wait for her.

"Fu—haha!! Stamping Count Attack!!"

There was no way Count Montelugi, who had reinforced his body with Orichalcum equipment, would wait either.

[Montelugi the Third, attacks, attack, attacks!! From strikes, to charges, to presses, there are a diverse and varied number of moves unleashed from his giant shield!]

That attack where he placed his weight on his weapon and took a stance where he leaned on the shield assailed the concentrating Kuon!

Susu.....

But however, Kuon avoided that pressing attack just by moving her body a little bit.

[However, Participant Kuon Heleott, she dodges, dodges, and dodges!! With the minimum amount of movements, she evades Montelugi the Third's attacks! There's no telling which one will catch hold of victory!!]

"Mumu! Tell then, how about this! Count, Shield Bash!"

Having flopped right next to Kuon, when Count Montelugi stood up, he once again sent out a strike through his shield.

But, once again, Kuon smoothly dodged that attack.

As if she were a tree leaf that fluttered about in the air that had a fist unleashed at it, she smoothly evaded him.

"Mumumu!! H, how impudenttt!!"

As expected, Count Montelugi would also accumulate anger from being avoided this easily.

The attacks increased in fierceness.

"....."

But even so, Kuon continued her thoughts.

While continuing her thoughts, she evaded Count Montelugi's attacks.

Within her deep thoughts, her body moved on reflex.

That was the indication of her deep thinking as well as the indication that the special training of controlling all of her body's muscles that she learned from Yuu was linked to her body.

And then—

".....I've got it."

Niyari Kuon showed an animal-like smile.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: 天照次元斬, Read as: てんしょうじげんざん

[2] Ruby characters are small hiragana or katakana readings of kanji usually above or to the side of the kanji.

Chapter 158: Hot Wind and Glaciers

"Did you know, Kuon."

"Nn—? About what?"

This was a time when not even a year had passed since Yuu had left this world of Reinbrook.

"About the story of a volcano's dragon and a certain young boy."

The man replied like that while strumming the string instrument he held in his hands.

"I don't."

The young girl shook her head.

"Well then, let me tell it to you. What I am about to tell you, is the story of the life or death struggle between a dreadful flame dragon that lived at a volcano, and the hero that carried a sword of light!"

Pororon The stringed instrument played a pleasant sound.

That was the time when Kuon, who had not yet known about Yuu, had first came into contact with those heroic tales—



Gari—!

Kuon bit her left thumb with her sharp cuspid.

Making her cuspid dig in deep, at the moment she took her tooth out, she also moved her finger and opened the wound.

Blood overflowed out from the wound.

At that moment, Kuon thrust her thumb at the arena's ring, and moving her thumb as if it were a writing brush, she wrote letters of blood.

What Kuon finished writing out with her blood was, a magic formation, and that formation was a Summoning Formation meant to call out contracted monsters and sacred beasts.

But, the lines and letters densely written inside of the circle, although both their appearance and effect were certainly just like those in what would be called

Summoning Formations, it in fact only looked similar and was a technique of a completely different skill system.

".....Come, [Kuuko·Tamamo]^[1] ! ! "

She stabbed her short sword into the center of that formation. The short sword that was a keepsake of her mother pierced deeply into the ring.

"Sealed Spirit, release!!"

Kuon twisted the thrust short sword as if opening the lock of a door.

—-*Gachari*

As if the lock to a massive door was opened, there was a heavy sound, and what appeared after that, was a gigantic pillar of ice.

A pillar of pointed ice, which seemed like a mass of crystal, had suddenly appeared.

It surpassed even the magic barrier that was spread out between the audience seats and the ring, and air cold enough to freeze the body enveloped the arena.

[You fledgeling fox^[2],You say my name quite relaxedly, don't you.]^[3]

That thoroughly bewitching and alluring voice shook the air.

Pishiri Cracks ran through the pillar of ice. Before long, those cracks went throughout the whole thing, and making a *gara gara* sound, the pillar of ice crumbled.

"Was it because that damned "Shion" was negligent in her education - dearinsuka?"

The figure of a person appeared from inside the crumbled pillar of ice. She had beautiful silver hair that was like silk threads that went down to her knees, and blue eyes like the ocean that could freeze anything that she saw. With skin that was so white and beautiful that it seemed like snow, that body emitted a mesmerizing charm that affected not only men but even women. She had features that somewhat resembled Kuon, but with a voluptuousness that a mature adult would display, she also looked like a completely different person. That woman, who had pointed fox ears growing out from her head, walked to Kuon's side with relaxed movements.

"Jeez, if it's just pointless talk, then do it another time, [Tamamo].Lend me your strength."

In response to that manner of speaking that could even come off as high-handed, the woman called Tamamo held back her laughter while raising the corners of her lips.

[Fuu—.....—Well, I was also once a child of man, and with it being a request of my descendant, I can't really refuse.]

Smoking the pipe that she held in her mouth, that fox, who blew out smoke while showing her bewitching voluptuousness, got down to the ring.

All while expressing a smile that said “it can’t be helped”, “there’s no other choice”, “good grief”, and “this looks terribly troublesome”.

[Make sure that you prepare five pieces of the finest quality aburaage.]

The woman, no, the bewitching spirit [Lady Tamamo] caught hold of the enemy with deep crimson eyes.



"You're telling me she called out a spirit, and it's even a King-class spirit?"

Seeing Tamamo who Kuon had called out, Sylvia muttered that without even trying to hide her excitement.

"Could it be, a talent in magic?"

When Leonhart asked that, Sylvia shook her head sideways.

"That's not it, the main cause is something different. Even for Alicia, Summoning Magic would take "several minutes". That speed, it was more like throwing open a lid.....The problem, is the point that she can "make use of" a spirit that was released in such a disorderly fashion."

Sylvia thought while caressing her chin with her hand. Seeing that, Leonhart went and said

".....Then, how about a "blood relationship"?"

to her.

"? I see, a blood relationship!!Kukuku, so she possesses an ancestor that rivals a Spirit King. I see, I understand now. This is quite the coincidence, Leo." Snapping her head up, Sylvia smiled looking quite amused.

"Ha.I did not think that there were any other than "us"."

"Umu. There is a lot of hardship when one possesses a praiseworthy ancestor." Sylvia went *kutsu kutsu* and laughed sounding like she was having fun. The Leezelion royalty had the blood of spirits flowing in them.

It was said that several generations before Sylvia, the King when history was still young had taken in the Spirit King of Fire as his Queen.

Although it had the figure of a woman, the King that did the foolish act of impregnating a spirit was said to be burned to death by the Spirit King of Fire after the child was made.

After another several generations, this time, it was said that the Spirit King of Ice was taken in.

Repeating that sort of thing, in the end, the monster known as Alicia who could completely control spirits of all elements was born.

"Now then, how will she attack?"



"Fu—haha! No matter what you do, you will be unable to break through my armorrrr!!"

Count Montelugi readied his shield and made a charge.

Seeing that, Kuon pulled out a kunai from her pocket.

It was a kunai that had an ordinary appearance, but at the kunai's pommel, the part that turned into a ring shape, something shining could be seen.

"Fuh!"

Kuon stabbed it down at the ground at her feet, and after stepping on it with her foot, she wedged it into the ring even more.

And then, in the next moment,

"Muoooh!? Wha, what in the worlddd!?"

Count Montelugi's shout resounded in the ring.

And that was only natural because Count Montelugi became unable to move about as if unseeable strings had twined around him, and was now floating to the point where the tips of his feet were just barely touching the ground.

However, after looking closely, something, something that seemed like unbelievably fine thread was entwined about his body.

It was iron thread. The thin thread of iron that was like piano wire had entwined around Count Montelugi.

That thread was stretching out from the grips of the kunai that the eight pipe foxes which floated in midair held in their mouths.

"[Ninpou, Dance of the Spider]! Well, it would be a pain if you moved about.....

Let's go, Tamamo! Match with me!"

[It is a hundred years too early for you to give orders to me -dearinsu yo.]

Although she said that, Tamamo also took a stance.

"Ninpou!"

[Senjutsu.]

The two started at the same time but formed different signs.

And then—

"—[Firedrake Breath]!!"

"—[Boisterous Ice Fang Dance]^[4]!"

A red hot hell fire and a freezing tempest burst out.

The scorching heat that could melt even rock and the furious snowstorm that could freeze all of creation assailed Count Montelugi who was wearing supreme ruling metal armor.

That which was heated up was cooled down, and that which was cooled down was heated up. And although the iron threads that restrained Count Montelugi had already been burned away, he was unable to do anything but ready his shield and curl up due to the force of the hellfire and furious snowstorm.

".....How is it?"

A few minutes later, Kuon undid her stance.

Although it was an attack by a hell fire and a furious snowstorm that an ordinary person wouldn't be able to endure, Count Montelugi who wore supreme ruling metal armor remained unchanged, and stood with his shield at the ready.

"Fu, fu—haha!! I was surprised when something amazing had appeared, but there is no need to worry! I have this armor!!"

After the hellfire and furious snowstorm stopped, as if responding to Count Montelugi's confidence, there wasn't even a single scratch on the armor made of supreme ruling metal.

It had darkly dropped its brilliance but—

—*Bakin!*

As if something, something hard had broken, that sort of sound, was made.

"——Nu?"

When it did, the expression that was within the full-faced helmet that Count Montelugi wore had changed.

"It would seem—that it worked, doesn't it?"

Kuon's mouth, grandly turned upwards.

Large cracks appeared on the darkened golden armor and shield.

"NWHAAAAah!? Wha, why, why is my armor like thissss!!??"

Count Montelugi's scream resounded throughout the arena.

That agitation was transmitted to the audience as well, and caused a stir.

"There was a countermeasure against heat. There should have naturally been a countermeasure against the cold as well.However, the abilities that you put on, each of those only had an effect on you yourself."

Kuon pointed at Count Montelugi's armor.

"Whether it be the crater of a volcano, or the innermost locations of the north pole, you probably wouldn't have felt the hotness or coldness of either of them.But, your armor was different. Your armor, it could become hot and it could become cold."

Kuon sneered while giving her explanation.

"Say, did you know? ——To defeat an evil dragon that lives in a volcano, you use Ice Magic."

"Nuu!?"

Grabbing the handle of the black katana that she carried on her back, Kuon appeared right before Count Montelugi.

"When cooled down dragon scales are hit with tremendous force, they become brittle like iron.It is there, that you plant the sword."

Kuon slowly, slowly drew her black katana, and then thrust its point at Count Montelugi.

"Its now brittle scales being unable to oppose the sword, its flesh torn, and its heart pierced, the dragon dies.....What will you do? Will you also try being like that dragon?"

Count Montelugi's face became pale, and he surrendered while becoming unable to stand up due to fear.

[Th, the victor! Is Kuon Heleottttt!!]

The second match, the victor was Kuon!!

Do you know about thermal expansion?

Hello, sorry to keep you waiting, this is the latest story. It's the unexpected appearance of Kuon's ancestor.

This time, at the beginning, it was the first adventure story of Yuu's that Kuon had ever heard, [The Fire Mountain's Dragon]. Since it doesn't seem like there will be a chance to talk about it after this, I'll talk about it here.

This'll spoil it but it was Jean. It was a tale that Jean Jack Eustace told Kuon after his adventurers with Yuu.

It ended up having a righteous flavor to it where in order to defeat a volcano dragon who was causing mischief, a swordsman challenged it to a fight, and after gaining the help of his companions, they obtained victory. But in actuality, it was something more dull.

Yuu "Dragon scales are hard."

Leo "It seems that they are harder than steel."

Yuu "Steel?Thermal expansion."

Leo "Roger that." Sylvia "Roger that."

Yuu "Victory. Now then, on to the next one."

It was the result of Jean taking this story that dully advanced like this and dramatizing it enough to make a single tale.

The Volcano Dragon story, as well as the twelve volume long bestseller [Hero Biographies] that Jean wrote were introduced to the market after changing them a bit.

Well then, until next time. Look forward to it.

Translator's Notes:

[1]Original: 空狐・玉藻, Read as: くうこ・たまも, Rough translation: Second-ranking fox spirit・seaweed

[2]Not sure about this part. Says 阿紫狐めが. The 阿紫 is read as あし.

[3] Refers to self as "wacchi"

[4] Original: 氷牙乱舞, Read as: ひょうがらんぶ

Chapter 159: Immovable Sword Fight

[Next, the third battle will soon commence—!!]

On top of the arena's ring, the Rabbit Tribe hostess announced that with a loud voice that didn't lose to the audience that was excited and raising an uproar from the fierce fight that just happened.

Yuu, while looking at that, involuntarily made a wry smile.

"That Kuon.....She went and did it."

Yuu honestly thought that Kuon would lose.

Kuon's attacks didn't get through to her opponent, however, if Kuon were to take a single lucky punch, she would be out.

But, Kuon greatly betrayed Yuu's expectations and, as a result, seized victory. Yuu vexingly felt that he didn't have a proper discerning eye, but he was also happy about it.

"I guess it was my fault for treating Kuon's talisman techniques as sub-standard and taking them lightly.....No, but, there's no way anyone would think that she would summon a King-class spirit. Even that sexy Nee-chan, she only sent out a single technique, so I can't grasp the full picture. Assuming that the power of the Ice Magic is on Leo's level, then to fight against that spirit-nee-chan + a Kuon that can use blank mind.....Ah, crap. This is looking to be much more of a pain than I thought. It doesn't look like I'll be able to get the result of being invincible."

Yuu muttered as he thought.

His face shined like that of a child that obtained a new toy.

"What are you saying, if it's Master, then it would end with a spurt of your Sacred Sword -jyaro ga!"

"Don't say things like spurt! Rather, if the sacred sword were taken out, then no one would be able to win against me."

When he placed a hand on the dissatisfied-looking Paimon's head, Lililuri, who sat next to him opposite of Paimon, lightly pulled on his clothes.

"Nn? What's up?"

"The next next match, is Yuu's match. Don't you have to, go and change?"

Looking over, the full black, full-face helmet wearing leotard woman and her opponent were already up on the ring.

"Thanks, Lililuri. Well then, I'm off."

"Take care. Yuu."

"Don't go losing, Yuu! Well, I don't think that you'll lose though."

"Master, go and kick your competition about and make your name well-known - no jya!"

Saying his thanks to Lililuri, Yuu received Lililuri, Tre, and Paimon's encouragement and headed to the participant waiting room.



"Ah?What's going on?"

After choosing a place that had no signs of any people and becoming [Darkness Executioner], when I reached the participant waiting room, there was a bit of an uproar.

There was the hosting staff of the Magic Clad Martial Arts Demonstration busily running about, and then, lying down on a stretcher at the center of the waiting room, there was a participant that lost both of their arms receiving healing.

The surroundings became noisy, and even the participants that saw that state had a nervous atmosphere to them.

"—Yashiro-aniki, did you not see the match that happened just now?"

"Ah, yeah.Looking at this situation, it looks like the match ended while I was changing.....Wait,.....ah."

I was technically hiding my identity, but I unintentionally answered normally to Kuon who had talked to me with a low voice next to me.

"Haha, to it really is Yashiro-aniki. Even though the smell and presence was that of Aniki's, I saw you as some different guy. Haa—, thank goodness."

Kuon let out a big sigh like she was truly relieved and made a wry smile.

"(Well, it's not like there's a need to hide it from Kuon.....S, so it doesn't count.)

Kuon, I saw your match.Honestly, I was surprised by various things."

"!Heheh, although it's still early in the day, I am Aniki's disciple after all—Wait, this isn't the time to be saying that."

Kuon scratched her head looking embarrassed, but her expression suddenly hardened up.

"Aniki, that bastard is dangerous."

Noticing that Kuon's gaze was turned towards my back, when I chased after her gaze and looked behind me,

"____....."

There was a woman wearing black armor that walked calmly without paying any attention to the surroundings that had become noisy.If I remember correctly, she was called Ryuune.

"That bastard, the moment the match started, without moving at all.....she lopped off both of her opponent's arms."

Saying that, Kuon showed an expression that seemed like she was in front of a hundred year long enemy.

"Without moving....."

"At all, without moving at all, Aniki. Without moving neither her arms or legs at all, she went and sneered!"

Kuon said that while vexingly glaring at Ryuune.

Kuon awfully treated Ryuune as an enemy.Most likely, she was afraid of her.

Towards an existence that she couldn't understand at all.

"It was the sword."

Zah With the sound of footsteps, a red-haired large man, libsal, stood next to me.

"Sword?"

"Y, you saw it!?"

Kuon raised her voice sounding surprised by libsal's words.

"Jou-chan, you were looking too much at that girl's hands. You could perceive it if you watched from a high-angle view.....But, even in my great self's eyes, I could only see from the moment the sword's tip digging into the shoulder and cutting off the arm. Of course, without the person herself moving at all."

libsal said that with a serious face that I have never seen before.

"Without moving at all, but cutting with the sword?I can't imagine that."

"As if you could imagine that. Even for me who saw it first hand, it was

something I couldn't believe.Kuhaha."

He laughed looking delighted.

This battle enthusiast, he already wants to fight against that Ryuune.

"Oi, Yuu, you are probably thinking of this as being like some other person's problem, but among us here, the one that will end up fighting her the quickest is you, you know?"

"Ah—.....That certainly is true."

For either Kuon or libsal, if that black leotard called Ryuune or something were to continue winning like this, they would fight in the finals, while I will have to clash against her in the semi-finals. Having faced that shocking fact, I involuntarily let out a big sigh.

"—....."

The black leotard, aka Ryuune, who should have no way of knowing the dispirited me, went past me and,

the moment she passed by,

"—.....Yuu Yashiro."

she went and said my name.

"?!"

She did it with a low voice as if she were whispering, however it was certain. She certainly said that.

"....."

"Ah? What's wrong, Yashiro."

As I spaced out, libsal shook my shoulder.

".....She said my name."

"Your name?What part of that is stra—"

"Right now, I am the [Darkness Executioner]. These clothes have Recognition Obstruction cast on them....."

Right, that's right. Right now, I have the appearance of [Darkness Executioner]. Even if she knew my name for argument's sake, there was no way the [Darkness Executioner], who has Recognition Obstruction cast, could be connected to me, Yashiro Yuu.

Sylvia was an exception, but basically, there should be almost no one able to see through it.

Just like how not even Kuon who felt my smell and presence could identify me.

"Would the participants of the fourth match please get ready."

A staff member raised their voice.

My opponent glanced at me and then started to walk towards the arena's ring.

".....You're thinking too much about it, is something that can't really be said, but if you think about other things, then you'll get the carpet pulled out from under you, you know?"

Certainly, it was just as Libsal said.

"Well, I guess it will all work out somehow."

"That's the spirit, Yuu!"

"Zuu!?"

Libsal hit my back with an open hand as if to pushed me forward.

That hurrerrrtttssss!! This jerk seriously hit me!!

"You jerk.....You'll regret this later!!"

"Kuhaha!! Hurry up and win."

"Aniki, I'll be cheering for you!"

While enduring my aching back, I started to walk towards the ring.

When I did, close to the entrance to the ring, Zappa of the Asura Tribe which possessed six arms had his front arms folded and was looking at me.

"....."

Silent. While being absolutely silent, he turned his eyes towards me as if he were evaluating me.

Passing beside that Zappa, I headed to the top of the ring.

On the ring that was surrounded by the sea that was in between it and the audience seats, the rabbit-eared therianthrope and my warrior opponent were waiting.

Casting away my idle thoughts, I focused only on the opponent that stood before me.

Even the opponent before my eyes, he was a man of valor that possessed confidence in his skills. It wouldn't be strange for him to have some sort of trick up his sleeve.

Therefore, I'll finish this in an instant.

[Well then, let the fourth match—]

Su—

I drew the two jewel swords that hung on my waist.
The blue and green pair of swords received a downpour of sunlight from right overhead and sparkled like how a star would shine.
My aim was on the armaments.
His longsword and the lightweight armor that placed emphasis on the shoulders and chest.

[com—]

I put strength into my toes. On the ring beneath my feet, small cracks appeared.

The muscles from my thighs to my calves swelled up.

[mence—]

In the next moment, I grandly went passed my opponent's side, and tightly stopped a few meters behind him.
Of course, I didn't simply pass by him.
In that one moment I passed by him, I launched a [Zantetsu].

Garan garan—!

The armor made of steel, the tip of the sword, they made that sound as they fell onto the ring.

"っ.....!?"

My opponent was surprised and couldn't even let his voice out.
And that was understandable. It was because just when he thought that his enemy had vanished from right before his eyes, his sword and armor became unusable.

"Should we, still continue?"

This match ended up being my victory due to my opponent's withdrawal.
Together with the rabbit-eared hostess's declaration, I was enveloped in explosion-like cheers.

Chapter 160: Two Goddesses

"Ah, Yashiro-sa—n!"

Long black hair with a luster, well-ordered facial features, and breasts that go *burun burun* and sway every time she swings her hands.

Everyone can probably already tell who that is.

"Bernadette!"

That's right, it was the black haired, big breasted sister, Bernadette.

.....Wait, why is she here?

After having had no contact with Bernadette after she left the day before yesterday, just what did she do?

"Since she had come nearby, I called her -no jya."

Paimon, who held a parasol, proudly said that.

"Nice job out there, Yashiro-san. Boy was I surprised. Just when I was thinking about if I should cheer on Kuon-san, when I was thinking about whether or not I should enter the coliseum, I was arbitrarily transferred by this Mazoku.....Next time, please don't do that all on your own, okay!"

"If I feel like it. Kiki!"

While laughing at Bernadette who was mad at her, Paimon said that as if to stir her up.

Can't these guys get along?

.....That's, probably impossible.

"Yuu, please properly introduce that girl to us as well. We have been told her name so far."

When Tre-san said that after watching our little exchange, Lililuri was also nodding her head next to her.

"Yashiro-san, I'm also interested! What kind of relationship do you have with this woman!?"

Bernadette, who was exchanging glares with Paimon, displayed an excessive reaction. Her gaze was turned towards the large tan boobs (tan colored boobs) that rivaled Bernadette's own large chest.

.....Huh? Come to think of it, right now, in this spot, the possessors of the

highest class of big breasts in the story, two Breast God-samas have visited.....Is this Heaven!? Is this Shangri-la or Eden!?

"More importantly, you two should wear swimsuits, that would be nice right I'm sorry so stop rubbing that gun muzzle into me!!"

D, damn you, Bernadette! Even though I hadn't even said it all yet, she put the muzzle of her gun on the area between my eyebrows and went further and rubbed it in! Even though she had become quieter recently, this girl really is dangerous!

"I am seriously asking you!"

Bernadette made an angry expression by puffing up her cheeks and going *pun pun!*. Unconsciously, I thought that was cute.

"I, I get it, I get it.....The relationship, the relationship right....."

Honestly, even if I were to say what kind of relationship I have with Tre-san, I can't really say what the relationship is. We're more than friends but not in an intimate relationship? That kind of doesn't sound right.

"Ah, that's it. A relationship where I saw her pe-bubeh!?"

A relationship where I saw her pee herself, is what I was about to say, but right before I could, something that I couldn't see hit my face and I ended up bending backwards.

Most likely, or rather unmistakably, it was Tre-san's attack. I mean, even though she's smiling, from my perspective, she isn't smiling at all. A bloodlust with an impression that said "You understand what will happen.....if you say it, right?" was even leaking out of her.

"Pe?"

"N, no, it's nothing. Th, that's it.....A relationship where we had crossed the point of life and death together, or something like that?"

With the meaning of having been thrown into a group of Basilisks, there's no mistaking that.Yup, Tre-san looks like she's satisfied with that.

"For Tre-san and Lililuri, I met them in Luxeria. In particular, I had even fought together with Lililuri in the Glard Wastelands."

(Probably having cleared out the area of people with magic or something) We continued talking while Bernadette sat down in an opened seat.

"Sh, she still looks like a small little girl though....."

"A secret. But, do have confidence, that won't be a burden to Yuu."

Lililuri answered with confidence to the surprised Bernadette. Well, she is the [Witch of Time] after all. As long as she can use a cheat move like Time Stop, there is no way she would become a burden.

"And so, I had met with Bernadette in Lizwadia. And we've been together since then."

Come to think of it, at first, she was aiming for my life, wasn't she. That feels like something from an awfully long time ago.

"Ahem. Formally introducing myself, affiliated with the Holy Ulquiorra religious organization, I am the [Agent] Bernadette.As for my relationship with Yashiro-san.....it is one where I have my chest rubbed by him."

"HAAAAAA!?"

Wha, wh-wh-what in the world is this girl sayingggg!?

"Isn't that the truth? Just the other day, you did do as you pleased when I wore a swimsuit after all."

Bernadette's cheeks went red as she twisted and shook her body.

Although it's true that I certainly have rubbed her breasts and have rubbed them as I liked from above the swimsuit! But you seriously snapped after I did! What? What is happening to my body right now!?

".....That is most likely, the result of Yuu's sexual desire having run wildly. It has nothing to do, with your relationship."

Ignoring me in my confusion, Lililuri cut in with that.

"And then, since it's the good-for-nothing Yuu we are talking about, he was unable to do anything more than that body touch.Am I wrong?"

"Mumu.....You, aren't."

Bernadette said that sounding vexed. Rather, I was inadvertently dissed just now, wasn't I? Wasn't I, Lililuri-san? Lililuri-san!?

"To think that Yashiro-san would have this kind of companion.....I, I won't lose either."

Bernadette folded her arms, made a meek face, and muttered.

Is there something to win or lose at?

.....Yup, looks like that strange feeling from earlier has disappeared.

The expression that Bernadette showed when she went off on her own that

looked like she was brooding over something couldn't be seen on the current Bernadette.

"?"

When I looked at Bernadette, she tilted her head.

I felt like wanting to ask her about various things but.....that isn't something to ask here.

I guess I'll try asking after all of today's matches have finished.

[And now, we are moving on to the first match of the second round!]

The announcement of the rabbit-eared hostess resounded throughout the arena.

With the fourth match finished, another four matches would be held.

"So the first match is between that libsal jerk, and one of the seeded people, huh."

"From what we saw earlier, a normal guy won't be a match for him though."

Tre-san made a wry smile and continued my words.

"Ii...? Who is that? An acquaintance?"

Bernadette went *koten* and tilted her head. Come to think of it, Bernadette didn't see the earlier matches.

"Well, an acquaintance I suppose."

"Is it a woman!?"

Kuwah Bernadette pressed me for an answer with amazing spirit. Just what is it that makes her be that serious?

"H, he's a guy."

"Fuu, thank goodness for that. It would be troubling if the female characters increased anymore than this after all."

When I answered while being a bit overpowered by her, Bernadette pressed down on her chest looking relieved. Personally, that wouldn't trouble me at all though—!

"""UOOOOOOOH!"""

When the top-half naked man with characteristic red hair, libsal, appeared on top of the ring, the audience's cheers exploded.

libsal responded to the audience that was surging with enthusiasm by raising his arms overhead.How should I put this, that guy is accustomed to this.

"Heh~, so that person is.....He's quite, he's a person that's a different type from Yashiro-san, isn't he."

True, libsal looks like the complete opposite from my appearance. On one hand is a yankee with his hair dyed red, and on the other hand is a serious, good young man after all.

"Serious? Good young man?"

".....Why you little."

Lililuri looked at me and forcedly tilted her head. Huh, did I say that out loud just now?

"It would seem that master has a habit of mutter -jya na."

Uumu, I need to be careful with that.

[Well then, the first match of the second round, the Fist Saint libsal Dora Gregoria Valanshel versus Fist Fighter Wong Lee.....Let the duel, commence!] When the rabbit-eared hostess declared that, the one that simultaneously moved first was,

"So fast.....!"

"Looks like he isn't just some small fry."

It wasn't libsal but his opponent, the Fistfighter called Wong Lee.

Although he was described as fast, it wasn't a speed comparable to what libsal and Kuon had shown, but to fill in a distance of several meters with just two steps, he was fast.

That which was done not through the use of some special walking technique but through pure leg strength, since it was speed that even ordinary people could just barely understand, it gave a surprise to the people that saw it.

That's right,

(This guy is pretty good!)

Even to the man that showed his teeth and smiled at the appearance of a strong person, even to libsal.

Chapter 161: Natural Talent

In the Free City Galarie, there existed many lodging facilities. It was because the city was the center of maritime trade, and was flourishing with tourists because it had the acknowledgement of its bathhouses and the arena from the religious organization.

One hotel among those lodgings, [Halcure]. This hotel, where the owner is said to have been a former member of the mercenary group that the Galarie Feudal Lord Oisast had once started up, had attentive service and gave a lot of delicious food for cheap, and boasted a popularity where it competed for being first or second among the lodging facilities that weren't aimed towards nobles.

Kaito's party was in one room of this hotel.

"And so, when will the Mazoku be coming."

Akane was straddling a chair without even trying to hide her displeasure. Seeing that kind of Akane, Akira made a wry smile.

"[Witch of Time]-san said that it would be either today or tomorrow."
"I know that part of the discussion."

Akane folded her arms.

"So just how long do we have to stay here?"

"Until those guys come and attack, I suppose. According to the [Witch of Time], the future is easily changed, and if we move without tact, then the Mazokus' actions might also change."

This time, it was Sakuya who answered while she was doing maintenance on the sword she had drawn from its scabbard. It wasn't one of the usual boorish curved swords like a machete. Made through the manufacturing techniques cultivated in a country of this world known as Wakoku, it was a Japanese sword that was created in a country that wasn't Japan.

"Uuugh, I know that, jeez!"

Akane groaned sounding sulky.

Seeing that, Sakuya giggled a bit.

"As long as we do not know the timing for when they'll come, we have no choice but to stay here, right?"

"But.....It's like, how do I put it."

"You can't feel at ease if you don't move your body, is that it?"

"That would be very much like Akane-chan."

Being laughed at by Akira and Sakuya, Akane's face turned red.

"Hey, Kaito, what about y.....!"

This time, as she tried to ask Kaito, Akane held her tongue.

"....."

He was glaring.

Glaring at the seeable sky from the hotel's glass window.

It wasn't like there was anything that could be seen in the sky that could be seen from the glass window. It wasn't like he was turning to the Mazoku that were said to be invading between today and tomorrow either.

(Yuu.....Just who in the world are you?)

He was turned towards the young man that was summoned from Japan together with them and had ended up walking down a different path due to having no maryoku, Yashiro Yuu.

(I want to believe that it wasn't an Advent. But, to be able to along with Akane's movements as she was strengthened with maryoku.....It's very hard to believe that he's an ordinary person.)

After hearing the case about how she had met with Yuu the other day from Akane, the contents of the story were very hard to believe.

(Besides, I'm also bothered by that sister that was said to have known about the Advent.Yuu was unwittingly affected by an Advent or something..... Dammit, I'm swelling with nothing but bad guesses.)

He remembered the appearance of Yuu when he saw him in Lizwadia. Was he already able to rival Akane at that time? Or could it be even further back than that. That young looking Guildmaster said that she taught him defensive techniques, but could it already have been at that time?

".....I."

"Eh?"

"If there is ever a time where he has fallen to the Mazoku, would I, be able to bring the sword down upon him."

It wasn't like he said that to anyone in particular. It could have been towards himself, and a form of resolve.

But, Sakuya, Akira, and Akane shuddered at the meaning of those words that Kaito had let out.

There were no words to say to that.

Silence covered the area.

After that painful silence, a young girl let out some words.

"[Soul Desire].....Kaito, Kaito answered my question."

This whole time, the grey young girl that sat in a chair at the corner of the room the whole time, perceived Kaito with her grey eyes.

"I will become your sword. That is my, duty."

"Even if.....the true sword is the opponent."

In the young grey girl's eyes, something, a strong emotion could be seen.



The result of Libsal's second match, due to the easily imaginable overwhelming difference, ended with Libsal's victory.

Although it didn't end in an instant like the first match, since his fistfighter opponent was pretty strong, starting to play (a seriousness in the name of play) with him, Libsal purposely received his opponent's techniques, and after accurately copying the moves that he received, he obtained victory.
Are you a cheat or something.

"Is Master's acquaintance or whatever a cheat?"

Paimon, you're not one to be calling others cheats.

"The Fist Saint, was it? It looks like he isn't called that just for show."

Tre-san eagerly nodded in an excited state. It's kind of vexing. It feels like I was beaten at my own game by that Libsal jerk.

"Although they were almost the same motions, the speed and power were remarkably different.They were movements that could only seem like he knew them from the start."

Lililuri, who could utilize [Time Magic], gave her commentary.

However, as for whether or not he knew them from the start. The opponent's techniques, they were the type of techniques that destroy internal organs. They felt like they resembled techniques that aimed for pressure points. They looked like the okuto Shinken.

Troublesome-looking techniques like those, that libsal practicing little by little.....might have happened. That guy kind of had a stoic part of him only when it came to empty handed martial arts after all.

But while I got a sort of unpleasant premonition, I also obtained a strange conviction.

That jerk went and copied it right there, definitely.

"Dif if refwy goof ifn't it, Yahiro-fan."

You're holding several skewers in both of your hands, Bernadette! Beef and chicken, grilled corn and grilled squid, cotton candy and a candied apple, a choco banana and skewered dangos, and there's still more!?

Like this, our party spent the time freely before Kuon's second match.

"Dof Fuon haf ha chanf ov finning?"

"Either eat the food in your mouth or talk."

"*Mosha mosha mosha*"

"This girl chose to eat!!"

"Does that girl known as Yuu's disciple have a chance of winning against him?"

Lililuri took over Bernadette's words.

"None at all."

I decisively denied it.

".....That's quite the harsh evaluation, Yuu."

It can't be helped, Tre-san.

Kuon is strong. But, as she is now, she is no match for libsal no matter how hard she tries.

"Tre-san, do you have any chance of winning if you fought against mankind's strongest, Leonhart?"

".....By Leonhart, you don't mean that Azure Sky Knight, Leonhart Clasion, do you?"

Tre-san looked at me with reproachful eyes.

When I said "Yup" and nodded, Tre-san let out a big sigh and then shook her head sideways afterwards.

"There's no way I could win. From what I hear, isn't he a monster that could equally fight against a Duke-class?"

"More accurately, it's that he [wouldn't lose even against a Duke-class opponent] though, but well, in any case, a normal human couldn't win against him no matter how hard they tried. Rather, even I couldn't win against him if I went from the front."

Of course, me not having the Sacred Sword is the major premise though.

"Even if Kuon were to make use of that Spirit King-class spirit, in a match of freezing type magic, Leonhart would most likely be declared the winner. That being the case, that Leo jerk, he can fight using the sword while firing advanced level magic chantlessly. He's already a cheat. A cheat.That being the case, when I fought against Libsal, he was strong to the point that I had delusions that I was fighting against Leonhart. They often say things like [softness subdues hardness] and [hardness severs softness]^[1], but he handles both of them to the point that it's hard to tell which one he specializes in, and so, depending on the opponent, the way he fights is forever changingWhether it be physical ability, talent, or sense, those have all been greatly pushed aside. This is already a difference in strength that can't be overturned unless she does something absurd like [stop time]."

Although I've been surprised by hearing nothing but things like him being the Fist Saint and the Valenshel imperial prince for the first time ever since I came to this town, at the same time, I could immediately understand why.

It's because just like how Libsal said he "thought I would immediately gain fame" to me, I also thought "no matter how I look at you, you don't seem like a nameless fistfighter".

"There are no factors that could let her win. She is no match for him."

"Even if she used the [Zantetsu] that you tried to teach her, Yashiro-san?"

"Even if she has that, she can't win. [Zantetsu] is simply makes it so that the blade gets through no matter how hard the opponent is. There will be no damage unless it hits."

Bernadette felt down. But I'm guessing that this match will become a huge plus for Kuon.

Kuon was brimming with talent. She also possessed a fighting spirit that won't yield to adversity. Guys like that won't let things end with them simply falling over.

She possesses a strength that will persistently jump back up with vigor just as much as she falls down.

"Well, her match with libsal will be the one after the next match, so she should first focus on the match before her. If she loses in the next match, this current conversation will become completely pointless."

Looking over at the ring surrounded by the sea, Kuon and her opponent came up.

Her opponent that was wrapped in a pure white robe was about two times Kuon's height. He didn't reach two meter, but he was pretty big.

"Kuon-sa—n! You're not allowed to lose—!!"

When Bernadette raised her voice within the roaring audience and gave a cheer of encouragement, Kuon's ears moved with a *piku* and turned towards the seats we were at.

As expected of Kuon's ears, to think that they could pick up Bernadette's voice among these excited cheers.....

After waving her hand at us looking embarrassed, Kuon turned back to her opponent.

Translator's Notes:

[1]

I don't really know the actual sayings for these. Here are the originals: [柔よく

[剛を制す],[剛よく柔を断つ]

Chapter 162: The Name of the Senior Disciple

If I had to make a comparison, it was like a flash of lightning.

At almost the same time that the match commenced, a flash was fired from the man called Lightning Judgement.

The emitted flash, that light was the sparkle of a spearhead.

Kuon, the one facing him, as if she had abandoned all shame and respectability, ran away from that attack.

It was because the moment she saw it, she sensed that she wouldn't make it with any decent movements.

"?!"

Having rolled over and escaped the spear's blow, Kuon was now on all fours, and from that position, she jumped backwards as if she were flicked back.

"Talisman Technique, [Fox Fire]!!"

Having created some distance from her opponent through the back step, Kuon took out several sheets of paper talismans from her pocket.

The talismans instantly ignited, and following that, bluish-white flames were fired towards Lightning Judgement.

The bluish-white flames glided while changing their trajectory as if they were alive, and

"....."

were easily knocked down as if they were flies by the spear that sliced the wind.

But, even so, that was no problem.

She was well aware that they would be of no use other than to serve at the level of a distraction.

Therefore, Kuon ran in fast.

—Since the Fox Fire talisman was the groundwork done for the sake of casting the die—

"We're back to square one!!"

"!?"

Kuon felt that her opponent had gulped inside of his hood.

"I've got you—っ!"

In contrast, Kuon showed a fearless smile. Her body got in as close as her opponent's bosom.

The swung spear could no longer get back in time. A defenseless body.

Kuon placed a hand on the handle of the katana she carried on her back, and she drew and swung it with all of her might.

The black-bladed katana drew the path that Kuon had imagined it would, and "—っ!!"

due to a sword that appeared from within the coat, was defended against.

"—We're back to square one."

"Gafuh!?"

When that voice that sounded like a low groan was leaked out, Lightning Judgement drove a kick like he was driving off a stray dog into Kuon's stomach.

"Tsk, so he defended against it.....っ"

It wasn't a pain that would cause her to writhe in pain, but while suppressing the throbbing pain in her abdomen with her hand, Kuon clicked her tongue at her own worthlessness.

Why did she think that the spear was that guy's only weapon.

The flash at the start of the match, since that flash was sharp, she made the misunderstanding that the spear was the field that guy specialized in, and that the spear was the only thing that he trained well in.

She couldn't grasp the movements when the guy drew his sword.

It wasn't because the sword was hidden within his coat.

Since that guy was skilled in using the sword, she simply couldn't see the speed at which he drew his sword.

"Dammit.....—Suu....."

Thanks to having been kicked away by him, she was able to gain some distance and became calm.

Next time, she would definitely cut him with her katana.

Kuon held the black katana she held in her left hand with a reverse grip, and took a stance where she erected the index finger and middle finger of her

empty right hand to make a sign.

(.....Nn?)

Kuon was ready to either attack or defend but,

(What in the world? That stance is.....)

She felt a sense of discomfort from her opponent's stance.

Her opponent was standing there while holding both his sword and his spear. That, standing posture of only clutching a spear and a sword, Kuon had seen it somewhere before.

"....."

"O, wha, WHA!?"

And then, her opponent moved his body so that it were as if to hide the hand that held the spear, and then oppositely move the arm that held the sword so that it was extended directly towards Kuon.

That stance where the spear was hidden, and the sword's tip was pointed towards her—

"That's Aniki's.....That's Yashiro-aniki's [Kamui] Stance!?"



"WHAT!?"

"Wh, what's wrong, Yashiro-san?"

When I stood up, at the same time, I leaned my body forward with a force that pushed the guests in front of me out of the way.

Bernadette was flustered, but honestly, I had confidence that I was even more flustered.

"Wh, why does he have the same stance as me.....! Could it be that that's Leo!?"

The ones that know my stance, the perfect beauty with no trace of artifice [Kamui Stance], at present are only my companions from three years ago. Although there is the exception known as Kuon, I heard that even that Kuon was told about it by a companion of mine from three years ago, Jean Jack Eustace.

So, that means that, the ones that can take up that stance are my companions from three years ago.....Furthermore, the one that had a playfulness, or rather

mischiefous personality among them was Leonhart alone!

I surveyed the area, and looked for Sylvia who was surely watching this match as well.

".....There she is!"

I confirmed that Sylvia, who was wearing a dress, was in the noble visitor seating.

And nearby.....Leonhart was also there.

Having noticed my gaze, Leo, after making a bitter smile, shook his head sideways as if to say that it wasn't him.

"It, isn't Leo?Then, then just who in the world, is that?"

I was unable to answer the words that I asked myself.



"Zeraah!!"

"—!"

Flashes popped.

Every time the blades collided, metallic sounds and sparks scattered.

Kuon and the Lightning Judgement had already exchanged blows to the point where no one could tell how many times it had happened.

When the spear was sent out as if to pierce her body, she would twist her body, dodge it by a paper-thin margin and get close. And when she released her katana, his sword would strike back at it.

Only those four actions were performed as if they would go on for eternity.

With a speed that would be difficult for an ordinary person to perceive, countless sword attacks unfolded.

The spectators held their breath, and only the sounds of the sword attacks echoed in the arena.

(—I can't win!!)

Within those sword attacks, Kuon was unable to imagine herself winning.

(He's skillfully, skillfully handling me! In terms of ability, there probably isn't that big of a difference.....but, but there is something, that I am overwhelmingly losing in!!)

In close combat where she couldn't use talisman techniques, she couldn't win.

Sensing that, Kuon clicked her tongue.

(To think I would have to end up borrowing her power over and over again.....
Damn, it's annoying but.....!)

When they locked swords, Kuon went from holding the handle with two hands to one hand, and when she drew the short sword that hung on her waist with her opened hand, she threw it to the ground.

The short sword stuck into the ground. Following that, Kuon took out several talismans out from her pocket.

Taking those, after making Lightning Judgement's swung spear as a foothold and jumping up, she threw the talismans at the four cardinal directions of the short sword and affixed them.

When the talismans were affixed perfectly to the ring, red letters wriggled from those talismans like bugs, and in the next instant, the letters drew a circle.

"—!!"

Lightning Judgement knew what it was that Kuon was trying to do.

She was trying to call out the monster class spirit that she showed in her first match.

Lightning Judgement tried to obstruct the summoning and aimed for Kuon. Sword attacks that were several times faster than before unfolded.

"—So you're finally, serious.....It's really, fierce!!"

The arrangements for the summoning were organized.

All that was left was to twist the short sword, and release the tie.

Slipping through the fierce attack,

"Fuh!!"

Kuon evaded a sword attack, and went up.....making a big jump to the sky.

"!!"

"Hehe.....It's not like that ring is the only foothold there is, you know?Well, you'd have to be like me to use this as a foothold though!"

Right overhead, Kuon was right overhead Lightning Judgement, and was floating upside-down.

No, she wasn't floating.

She was standing by using the dome-shaped barrier that was put up in order to

prevent damage to the audience as a foothold.

"[Sealed Spirit, release].....!!"

—*Giri*

When Kuon made the action of pulling something, *giriri*, a muffled sound was made and the short sword was turned.

Looking closely, a super fine iron thread was tied to the handle of the short sword. By making used of this iron thread, she turned the short sword.

"__"

Lightning Judgement noticed the iron thread, and severed it with his spear.
—But, he didn't make it in time.

[Honestly, what a rough fox-using descendant -de arinsu.]

A cold air that chills even the heart gushed out.
An alluring voice that could throw human nature out of order resounded.

In an instant, Lightning Judgement was imprisoned in a pillar of ice.
While in the pose of having swung his spear, his movements were stopped as if time for him had stopped and—

Bishi, biki—

Cracks ran across the pillar of ice that imprisoned Lightning Judgement. And as those increased to a countless number,

"Nwha!?"

[Hou.....This looks like it will turn into something quite interesting -de arinsu ne.]

Making a *gara gara* sound, the pillar broke into pieces.

"—Honestly, I nearly died.This battle, whether I win or lose, you should be the one to go onto the next match."

Lightning Judgement said that to Kuon who got down to the ring.

"Just what, is your aim?"

When Kuon asked that, Lightning Judgement thrust his spear into the ground and sheathed his sword into its scabbard.

"As an elder disciple who possessed the same person as their mentor, I aimed

to check on your ability. ——However, since you were more “able” than I expected, I’ve started to want to become serious.”

“The same mentor? Just what are you saying.....Plus, to say that you weren’t going seriously, just what do you mean by that?”

Having been told something incomprehensible, Kuon asked that sounding agitated.

“It’s just as it sounds. I haven’t been serious.”

“Don’t screw with me! Are you saying that you’ve been going easy on me!?”

Kuon bellowed. But towards that, Lightning Judgement shook his head sideways.

“No, I haven’t been going easy on you. My “current” self has brought out and exerted all of my ability.However, I haven’t shown my trump card.”

Saying that, Lightning Judgement threw off the white coat with a hood attached to it.

“Your name is Kuon Heleotte, isn’t it.My name is Procyon. Yashiro-san’s first disciple.”

The one that threw off the white coat was a young boy that had silver hair, and possessed beast ears that were the trait of therianthropes.

“Siri.....us!?”

A groan-sounding voice, was released from Yuu’s mouth.